FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat's Future — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat rejected a request by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami that he leave Tripoli and subsequently stated that he will hold a dialogue with his Palestinian opponents only if they lift the siege of the city and if an Arab force is sent to northern Lebanon to guarantee the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. 'Arafat said Arab observers or troops are needed to protect Palestinians in the Al-Baddawi camp, AFP noted. Karami's call for 'Arafat and "his brothers" to quit Tripoli, broadcast by Damascus television, was not supported by the leader of Tripoli's Islamic Unification Movement, who told Radio Monte Carlo that 'Arafat is welcome in the city. Meanwhile, a Fatah dissident spokesman at the captured Nahr al-Barid camp north of Tripoli offered to assist 'Arafat's safe passage from the city, asserting that the dissidents want to see 'Arafat leave safely, according to AFP. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi invited 'Arafat to Libya under a guarantee of safety and protection, JANA reported. However, in an exchange of messages with the Libyan leadership, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, the Fatah Central Committee rejected "any meeting" with the Libyan leaders.

North Lebanon Military Situation — Fighting between supporters and opponents of 'Arafat erupted anew early on 14 November, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The cease-fire had been violated by intermittent clashes over the weekend, Beirut radio noted. A 12 November report by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that over 800 Palestinian fighters have defected to 'Arafat's side, bringing 46 tanks with them. Meanwhile, at a meeting outside Tripoli, dissident leaders including Nimr Salih and Colonel Khalid al-'Amlah reviewed the military and political situation and stressed the need to abide by the cease-fire, Turbul Voice of Palestinian Revolution radio announced on 13 November.

In another development, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* reported that 'Arafat's forces received "sophisticated" weapons from the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries over the weekend, according to QNA. The report did not say how the arms were delivered.

Dissident Views — If 'Arafat leaves Tripoli, the Fatah rebels will transfer their forces southward to face the common enemy, Israel, dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha declared in a Radio Monte Carlo interview. Asked whether he hopes to assume the PLO leadership, he disclaimed any ambition to have a political status, "for which some Palestinian leaders are now competing." Citing the London weekly *AL-MAJALLAH*, the radio subsequently reported that the dissidents have formed their own "central committee," headed by Nimr Salih and including Khalid al-'Amlah and Sa'id Musa. Mahmud al-Labadi, a dissident spokesman in Damascus, affirmed earlier in a Vienna television interview that the dissidents are against splitting the PLO.

In a lengthy roundtable discussion broadcast by Damascus television on 10 November, Nimr Salih and other dissident leaders provided further details on the motives for their uprising. Salih spoke of "defeatism" within the PLO leadership before and during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and claimed that "some" Fatah leaders had advised acceptance of the Camp David accords. He blamed 'Arafat for making the Fatah leadership agree to clause seven of the Fes summit resolutions, as the first step toward the recognition of Israel.

Syria

Khaddam-Gromyko Talks — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko stressed to his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam the "highly important and urgent" need to end strife and restore PLO unity, TASS disclosed in a report on 10-11 November talks in Moscow. Gromyko and Khaddam held a "thorough exchange of opinions" on the Lebanese situation, including developments in the Tripoli area, TASS said. Damascus radio's account of Gromyko's remarks did not mention his reference to the situation in northern Lebanon and the Syrian foreign minister did not refer to the PLO fighting in remarks in Moscow reported by the radio and TASS. Khaddam emphasized Syria's concern about possible U.S.-Israeli "aggression" against it and urged the National Dialogue Conference to seek the withdrawal of Israeli forces, Lebanese national unity, and the withdrawal of the Multinational Force, "which threatens not only Lebanon but also the entire region," TASS and the radio noted. Before leaving the USSR, Khaddam expressed gratitude for the Soviet Union's support for Syria and said the two sides had reached a "common opinion" on "all issues discussed," according to remarks broadcast by Moscow television.

The joint communique on Khaddam's visit condemned U.S. policy in the Middle East and other regions, including Central America and the Caribbean. In the communique, which was reported by TASS and Damascus television, both sides expressed satisfaction with the steady development of bilateral relations on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation and reaffirmed their adherence to the obligations of the treaty. The sides reiterated the need for an overall settlement of the Palestine problem through the establishment of a Palestinian state after talks involving "all the sides concerned," including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Soviet Presence — Israel has "reliable information that the Soviets are going to leave Syria within 1 and 1/2 to 2 months," Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said in a 12 November speech reported by *MA'ARIV*. The Israeli Government is not indifferent to these reports, since past experience indicates that "something happens after the Soviets leave a place," Levi added.

In another development, the London weekly *AL-MAJALLAH* reported that a Soviet military delegation recently visited Damascus to investigate the possibility of establishing a naval base at Tartus, according to KUNA.

Lebanon

Political Developments — A visit by President Amin al-Jumayyil to Syria to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad, which was scheduled for 14 November, was canceled when Al-Asad was hospitalized for appendicitis, Beirut and Damascus radios reported. Al-Jumayyil's visit had been arranged during a telephone call he made to Al-Asad on 11 November, the radios added.

The second session of the National Dialogue Conference, scheduled to convene in Geneva on 14 November, was postponed because Al-Jumayyil would not have completed his meetings with various international leaders by the time the conference began, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the conference Political Committee, which had been meeting in preparation for the conference meeting, reached a "broad consensus" on "most problems raised," including equal parliamentary representation for Muslims and Christians, naming of the prime minister by parliament, and the abolition of official sectarianism in government and the Army, AFP stated.

Military Developments — Clashes continued on 12 and 13 November around Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb after the positions were fired on from areas held by Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party militia and their allies, the Voice of Lebanon stated.

In southern Lebanon, two IDF soldiers were slightly wounded in a bomb blast east of Tyre on 14 November, an IDF spokesman cited by IDF Radio announced. Beirut radio reported that Israeli forces were preventing all traffic from moving across the Al-Awwali River bridges.

In a separate development, "security information" cited by the Voice of Lebanon reported that in Beirut's southern suburb the Islamic Amal Movement was packing an armored personnel carrier with explosives with the aim of detonating it at a French or U.S. position in the city.

Israel

Relations with Egypt — No progress was made in the talks between Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Jerusalem radio reported at the end of Kimche's visit on 10 November citing "official spokesmen" in Cairo. Kimche admitted that the two sides had "not reached results" but said they had agreed to send an Egyptian envoy to Israel to continue the dialogue, according to MENA.

Egypt-Iraq

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak discussed the Iran-Iraq war and Lebanon with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan when the latter stopped over in Cairo on 11 November after his visits to Romania and Bulgaria, MENA reported.

Jordan

Security forces discovered and defused bombs in Amman on 10 and 12 November, according to Amman television.

YAR

Presidential decrees broadcast by San'a' radio on 12 November announced the formation of a new Cabinet under Vice President 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, replacing as prime minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, who was appointed chairman of a council to reconstruct areas hit by earthquakes. New ministers of foreign and economic affairs were listed in 'Abd al-Ghani's Cabinet.

Iran

Relations With France — In retaliation for the delivery of French Super Etendard aircraft to Iraq, Iran ordered the French commercial representation in Tehran and the French Archeological Institute closed, as well as "discriminatory" actions against French banks and products, Paris radio disclosed. The radio added that the action against French trade and interests is not complete, as trade in spare parts for French-built equipment and work on joint projects such as the thermal power station in Tabriz are continuing.

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Dissidents Said To Offer 'Arafat Safe Passage

NC131451 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Camp Nahr al-Barid, Northern Lebanon, Nov 13 (AFP) — Palestinian rebels are prepared to offer Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chief Yasir 'Arafat safe passage out of Tripoli, a rebel spokesman said today. Interviewed outside this camp near Tripoli which fell to dissidents last week, spokesman Jihad Salih said they were not seeking to arrest or kill Mr 'Arafat. "We want him out safely," he said. "If he wants us to help him, we can get him out of Tripoli."

Dissident forces opposed to Mr 'Arafat's leadership have been laying siege to the Al-Baddawi refugee camp near here, the PLO chief's last stronghold in Lebanon.

Dissident Leaders on Need To Abide by Cease-Fire

NC131525 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1453 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Brothers, I have just received the following report: Brothers Abu Salih, Colonel Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, Abu Akram, and Colonel Abu Majdi visited the north where a military meeting was held at Jabal Turbul. It was attended by members of the military council Colonel Abu Majdi, Lieutenant Colonel Ziyad Saghir, Major Zayid, Major Abu Jalil, Major Abu Zahrah, and Major Ash-Shaykh 'Ali, and a large number of officers and cadres. At the meeting, the military and political situations were reviewed in the light of the continuation of 'Arafat's provocation and the Israeli enemy's planes overflights in the area. The method of tackling the situation in the north, particularly in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, was assessed. It was decided not to follow the method of 'Arafat and Al-Wazir, who have tried to drown the two Palestinian camps and our Lebanese masses in a sea of blood. The vigilance of the military commanders and the close cooperation between them and the citizens in the north have succeeded in foiling this plot.

During this meeting, the leaders of the uprising stressed the need to continue to abide by the cease-fire in the north except in cases of self-defense to protect this national and Arab city from the consequences of the plans of 'Arafat and Al-Wazir.

'Arafat on Dialogue Conditions, Other Topics

Possible Talks With Dissidents

LD122102 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has declared his conditions for opening a dialogue with the Palestinian dissidents who are besieging the forces loyal to him in Al-Baddawi camp. 'Arafat suggested that an Arab force supervise the cease-fire in Tripoli, the siege on Al-Baddawi camp be lifted, and the Syrian forces supporting the dissidents be withdrawn. The PLO Executive Committee chairman expressed his readiness to agree to the convening of a Fatah general confernce, which is one the demands made by the dissidents, to settle the inter-Palestinian dispute.

PLO Talks in Jordan

NC121546 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Lebanon, Nov 12(AFP) — Talks to find a "political role" in Jordan for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have been going on for some time, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said today as moves to strengthen the ceasefire here between warring PLO factions appeared stalemated. Mr 'Arafat whose loyalist forces are surrounded in this northern capital by Syrian-acked PLO rebels, told journalists the talks had begun before he left PLO headquarters in Tunis earlier this year to join beleaguered loyalist forces here. Mr 'Arafat said that after meeting with two Jordanian ministers, envoys of Jordan's King Husayn in Tunis, he sent two Fatah Central Committee members to continue the talks in Amman. One of them, Hani al-Hasan, was still in Jordan, he said, adding that the talks had so far given good results.

"I am not seeking talks just for the pleasure of talking. We want to envisage the future of our people. We have our point of view and they (the Jordanians) have theirs," he added.

Mr 'Arafat also expressed satisfaction at yesterday's statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko calling for an end to the strife in PLO.

Meanwhile efforts continued here to consolidate the ceasefire and avert new clashes between the two sides. Mr 'Arafat confirmed that he would not leave Tripoli without receiving assurances that earlier massacres of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon "are not repeated". He also demanded the placing of Arab observers in the city and strict guarantees that neither the Palestinian dissidents nor the Syrians would enter Tripoli.

Contacts With Moscow

LD141122 Kuwait KUNA in English 1006 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, Nov 14 (KUNA) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat paid tribute to H.H. the Amir, H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, and to the deputy premier foreign and information minister for Kuwait's efforts toward eliminating Palestinian differences, saving Arab blood, and clearing the Arab atmosphere. In a telephone interview with KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY at his headquarters in Al-Baddawi refugee camp, to the north of Tripoli, 'Arafat said the stands of H.H. the Amir and H.H. the crown prince are "as genuine as they have always been."

In reply to a question, 'Arafat said he is in constant contact with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to follow up efforts which he and other officials of the Arab Gulf states are making to consolidate the ceasefire agreement.

Answering a question, the Palestinian leader said "We are all well, and our position is better than before despite an infiltration attempt Saturday which had been repulsed." He added there was intermittent gunfire Sunday, and fire was set to one of the two oil tanks of Tripoli refinery stressing that "there is [word indistinct] determination to destroy that refinery."

In answer to another question, 'Arafat said he has information affirming that the talks held between the Soviet foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, and Syrian foreign minister, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, were "by far more important than what has been stipulated at the joint communique released at the end of the Syrian-Soviet talks.'"Arafat confirmed that the head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi would lead a PLO delegation on a visit to Moscow next week.

Al-Baddawi Observers, Mediation

NC131650 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Nov 13 (AFP) – Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Leader Yasir 'Arafat today called for Arab observers to be placed around the Al-Baddawi camp near here which is being besieged by Al-Fatah dissidents. "I learnt a serious lesson, after our departure from Beirut, with the massacres at Sabra and Shatila" Mr 'Arafat told a press conference here. He recalled the expulsion of Palestinian refugees from the Tall az-Za'tar camp in east Beirut by Christian militia in 1976. "That is why I ask at least for observers if not for Arab soldiers to protect the camp," he said.

Questioned about the nationality of the suggested observers, Mr 'Arafat said that troops from Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Sudan and the Arab Emirates had been sent into Lebanon with The Syrians in 1976. "There is no reason why they should not return" he said, adding: "It is obvious this time it would be without the Syrians who are besieging us and who are here anyway." The proposal was under discussion, he said.

He added that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah had told him that negotiations with Syria, which like Libya backs the dissidents, were to resume late today.

Mr 'Arafat said he today had contacts with "Our Algerian friends and with the Soviet Union". He had also sent a message to Indian Premier Indira Ghandhi on the question of mediation with the Syrians, because the Syrians, the Libyans and the PLO were all members of the Non-Aligned Movement chaired by Mrs Gandhi.

Fatah Central Committee Resumes Tunis Meetings

JN101825 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Our correspondent in Tunis said that the Fatah Central Committee this afternoon resumed its meetings that began in Tunis on 4 November to follow up developments in the situation in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas in light of the events in northern Lebanon. The committee is discussing the dimenstions of the vicious onslaught on the Palestinian revolution and our refugee camps in northern Lebanon and its serious impact on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The committee is also discussing the results of Arab mediation to rescue the situation and avoid the destruction and containment of the PLO by the Syrian and Libyan regimes under the cover of Palestinian elements that sold their conscience and abandoned their people's cause in favor of Arab regimes.

The committee is also studying means of combatting and foiling this onslaught, as well as means of preserving both the achievements of the Palestinian revolution and the continuation of independ Palestinian national decisionmaking. The Fatah Central Committee is also studying the future policy of the PLO and means of escalating the Palestinian national struggle [words indistinct]. Our correspondent said that the Central Committee placed on its agenda the following up of recommendations and resolutions that the Fatah conference in Tunis adopted 2 days ago.

Libyan, Central Committee Messages

JN131707 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1549 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The following is the text of the two messages the Libyan leadership sent to the Fatah Central Committee and the answers of the committee to these messages:

The first message:

From the Libyan Jamahiriyah's leadership to the Fatah Central Committee.

The Jamahiriyah leadership extends an invitation to Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman and leader, to visit the Jamahiriyah. The Jamahiriyah is prepared to take all the necessary measures for his safe departure from Tripoli and northern Lebanon and his arrival in the Jamahiriyah at the appropriate time. To pave the way for this visit, the Jamahiriyah leadership invites Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, to visit the Jamahiriyah and hold talks on Palestinian-Libyan relations.

In its message, the Jamahiriyah leadership also asked for the return of Brother Abu Tariq, PLO representative in the Jamahiriyah, who was expelled by this leadership more than 10 days ago.

The following is the Central Committee's answer to the first Libyan message:

The Fatah Central Committee has received the Jamahiriyah's invitation for Brother Abu 'Ammar to visit Libya. The Committee welcomes this invitation in principle. The Committee will meet and inform you on Abu Iyad's visit and about Abu Tariq tomorrow, 11 November 1983. A cease-fire and a continuation of this cease-fire will help hasten the response to your invitation.

The following is the text of the Libyan command's second message to the Fatah Central Committee:

Brother Abu 'Ammar is in a bad state. He is besieged. Instead of seeking refuge with a foreign state, the Jamahiriyah invites him to come to Tripoli in order to spare further bloodshed, end the struggle, and save Abu 'Ammar from his present impasse and so the civilians in Tripoli and northern Lebanon are spared further human and popular losses. We will guarantee his security and safety. The Jamahiriyah is taking this initative despite the fact that it is unacceptable to some.

The Fatah Central Committee's answer to the second letter:

Those who are now in a historical impasse are those who mass armies and agents and direct their rifles at the heroic and steadfast Palestinian fighters in the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps and the city of Tripoli, thus provoking the anger and condemnation of the Palestinian and Arab masses everywhere. The Palestinian revolution and its brave leadership, led by Brother Abu 'Ammar, are living through their glorious steadfastness in defense of the PLO, its legitimacy, and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. The steadfastness of its great people and their cohesion with it are the best protectors for the PLO and the greatest means of prolonging its life and enabling it to triumph. The stand taken by the forces of freedom and progress in the world, led by the USSR, and the various sectors of world public opinion which support the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership under Brother Abu 'Ammar, shows that the PLO is enjoying immense world support and backing and that the aggressors and those who plot against the PLO from certain Arab regimes and their agents are being condemned for their conspiratorial plots. They are living in isolation not only from the Arab people, but from the world progressive forces and peoples as well.

We had believed that the conscience of the Jamahiriyah's leadership had been awakened by its crimes against the Palestinian people and their leadership. Stemming from our stand in support of Arab solidarity, we believed that we should respond to this awakening of the Libyan leadership's conscience. However, since the Libyan intentions have become exposed, thus showing that this leadership continues to plot against the PLO and its legitimate leadership, we reject any meeting [liqa'] with the Libyan leadership.

Message to Soviet Leadership

GF131727 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Aabic 1600 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Brothers: The Fatah Central Committee has sent a written message to the Soviet leadership. This is the second message sent by the Central Committee within a week.

Brother Hasan Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, met with the Soviet ambassador in Tunis yesterday and explained to him the latest developments of situation in northern Lebanon. During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador affirmed his country's firm and principled position toward the Palestinian issue and support for the PLO under the leadership of Brother Abu 'Ammar. He stressed the necessity of Arab solidarity and called for renouncing differences at this stage to confront the Zionist enemy.

Salah Khalaf on Soviet Relations, U.S. Role

PM101342 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 4 Nov 83 p 11

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyadh, by 'Abd ar-Rahman Idris — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What about the Soviet Union's role and its affirmed support for Fatah and Yasir 'Arafat, bearing in mind the opposition's claim that the Soviet Union supports it?'

Answer: The Soviet Union is a superpower. It has a policy from which it does not deviate. As far as interests are concerned, it is in the Soviet Union's interest to underscore its relations with Syria because Syria gives it a foothold in the Middle East, or at least that is what the Syrians tell the Soviets. As a superpower, it does not deal with liberation movements on a large scale. We, the Palestinian revolution, regrettably do not have any territory to give the Soviet Union a foothold in the Middle East, but Syria tells the Soviets that it has common interests with them. That is why the Soviet Union's support for the PLO, although bold and sincere, does not reach the point where they would join the battle on our side against Syria.

As I have said, there are interests which govern the Soviet Union's relations with Syria and everyone else. As far as we are concerned, they have not, in principle, departed from this line and this has been the case throughout our latest consultations with them. They have nothing to do with the dissidents who have made a habit of telling lies on so many things, including the Soviet Union. Basically they are Marxists and leftists and we are not, but as a state the Soviet Union helps and supports only us. Because they are Marxists and leftists, they assume the Soviets should by necessity support them, but we have definite information that the Soviets do not support them.

On the current contacts with Syria, Abu Iyad said: We have been trying for a whole month now — since 5 May — and we have excluded no mediation by any Arab state. Previous Arab and other mediations collapsed because of the dogged determination to undermine Yasir 'Arafat. I want to say, through *AL-JAZIRAH*, that nobody will be able to force 'Arafat to leave Tripoli or abandon the cause because this issue concerns the Palestinian and Arab peoples and Abu 'Ammar will never be manipulated by anyone. Nobody has a right to say that 'Arafat will fall because this is unacceptable to the Palestinian and Arab people.

In his interview with *AL-JAZIRAH*, Abu Iyad criticized those who call for the departure of 'Arafat and the Palestinian resistance from Tripoli. He said: Where will they go? There are 50,000 Palestinians in the north.

Abu Iyad asked sharply: Was our departure from Beirut under Israeli pressure in the Beirut siege not enough? Should there now be an Arab siege?

On the U.S. role and attempts to abort every Arab resolution in favor of a Middle East settlement, Abu Iyad said: The time has come for us to begin honoring our own decisions. At the latest Fes summit conference the Saudi initiative was accepted as a basis of an Arab peace plan. It is known as the Fes resolutions. I believe that if we do not respect our own decisions nobody will respect us. As far as settlement of the Middle East and Palestinian crises goes, we consider the Fes resolutions to be the minimum at joint Arab action level.

If the United States wants to take the initiative it must first accept the Fes plan as the only Arab solution and only Arab initiative. If the aim is to create obstacles to prevent the success of the Arab plan, however, then it is a different matter. The Arab peace plan and the Fes resolutions are what we must all adhere to because they, as I have said, represent the minimum joint Arab action.

PLO Changes Delegation to USSR To Include Fatah

LD111552 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Moscow, 11 Nov (KUNA) — Palestinian sources said here today that the composition of the Palestinian delegation scheduled to visit Moscow within the next few days and led by Faruq Qaddam, head of the PLO's Political Department, has been changed to represent the PLO as a whole and not only Fatah. The sources said the rason for this change is to avoid giving the impression that the fighting in northern Lebanon is a Palestinian-Palestinian affair, when it is in fact fighting between certain Arab regimes hiding behind some Palestinian quarters on one hand and the PLO on the other.

Kuwaiti Paper: Loyalists Receive Soviet Weapons

GF140756 Doha QNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Nov (QNA) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* reported today that sophisticated types of weapons have been received by the loyalists of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tripoli during the past 2 days from the Soviet Union and some Eastern countries. The newspaper added that these weapons, which have been given to the resistance for the first time, will be extremely efficient in future battles.

PLO Spokesman Denies Withdrawal From Tripoli

JN111939 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1809 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Telephone interview with Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, PLO official spokesman, in Tripoli on 11 November by Radio Monte Carlo's Chief Editor Antoine Abu Samra, carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program — recorded]

[Text] [Abu Samra] What is your answer to Rashid Karami's statement calling for Yasir 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli?

['Abd ar-Rahman] We must clarify here that what links Brother Abu 'Ammar with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami is a militant, national, and fraternal relationship. Consequently, what former Prime Minister Karami announced is a subject of study and concern, although we wish that Karami had chosen any other medium than Syrian television to announce his statement or stand. There is no doubt that former Prime Minister Karami realizes that the situation in Tripoli cannot be summarized by the words "Abu 'Ammar's departure from Tripoli." Rashid Karami knows that the danger threatening Tripoli will not disappear the minute Abu 'Ammar leaves the city. We wish that Rashid Karami were here among us in Tripoli so we could study all sides of the situation and so former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Brother Abu 'Ammar, men of opinion, and all political forces in Tripoli can discuss things among themselves. All the forces and men of opinion join us in waiting for Rashid Karami so we can discuss all these affairs in order to save the city of Tripoli from a massacre that is being prepared, similar to what happened in Beirut after the Palestinian resistance left it.

[Abu Samra] There are two questions we feel we have to ask. The first: One news agency says that the atmosphere now prevailing in Tripoli is one of departure. What is your comment on this?

['Abd ar-Rahman] I heard this report a short while ago on Radio Monte Carlo. I was really surprised. It seems that there is confusion between the presence of many volunteers arriving in Tripoli these days to defend the revolution and preparations for departure. These volunteers were seen in the mobilization and preparation sites before they were sent to the combat lines. As for the other things, namely the buying of personal needs from the markets, this is a natural affairs. Accordingly, I do not see what was reported by the news agency, that there is an atmosphere of departure in Tripoli. I hope that correspondent was able to see how the city is preparing to defend itself.

[Abu Samra] I have another question regarding the same subject: News agencies also reported from Tripoli that some of the city's dignitaries, precisely the mayor, will meet or have met with Yasir 'Arafat to ask him to neutralize the city. Has such a thing happened?

['Abd ar-Rahman] No meeting was held today between the mayor and Brother Abu 'Ammar. A meeting was held between Abu 'Ammar and a special envoy of Rashid Karami. Abu 'Ammar underlined his understanding of the circumstances in which Rashid Karami made his statement. Abu 'Ammar asked the special envoy to convey his greetings to Rashid Karami and hoped that Karami would come to Tripoli to study all sides of the situation, as I said earlier, because the issue cannot be summarized by Abu 'Ammar's departure or nondeparture from the city. There is a serious danger threatening the city and I hope that what was broadcast yesterday will not constitute a justification for the attack that is being prepared against this steadfast city.

[Abu Samra] Brother Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, Yasir 'Arafat's opponents accuse his forces of opening fire on them and say that they are not returning the fire. This was said by Abu Musa a short while ago in this program.

['Abd ar-Rahman] you may deceive the people for an hour or so, but no one can deceive the Palestinian camps residents, not even for 1 minute. The steadfast Palestinians in Al-Baddawi camp know very well the direction and the source of the shells and the sniper fire. The Palestinian fighters know very well who is stationed in those positions. I am not saying that only the dissidents are opening fire. I know that they do not possess this military ability. Where did they get the 90 rocket launchers and 154 guns with which they are shelling us day and night?

I wish they had been sincere, even once. I wish they had at least notified their positions that there has been a cease-fire since 1800 the day before yesterday. They did not do this at all. This shows that they continue to open fire.

There is other evidence. A number of PLA officers and soldiers today joined the revolution's ranks. I myself asked them whether they had received any instructions or orders to cease fire. They answered that no such instructions had been given to them. They added that they used to receive orders every now and then to open fire in this or that direction. I believe that the news media and journalists were with us in Al-Baddawi camp. There were correspondents of the U.S. ABC television network. They recorded the shelling and the sniper fire. Do not forget that a large number of houses in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps were destroyed. More than 40 houses were destroyed in Nahr al-Barid and more than 70 of the camp's residents were martyred. As for Al-Baddawi camp, there is a martyr who falls every day to the blind bullets of the snipers. I do not know what honor would they achieve by occupying or attacking the camps. They are placing themselves inthe same position as the Israelis.

[Abu Samra] My last question: Will the ongoing mediations, negotations, and consultations result in something or will the problem be solved by the gun in the end?

['Abd ar-Rahman] We hope that the problem will not be solved by the gun because those who make the decision to end the problem are actually playing havoc with the Palestinian and Arab blood. We insist on the political solution. We insist on democratic dialogue. We always tell those who look at the world only from their positions on Turbul Mountain that the Palestinian people in all their locations are cursing them and condemning their overlords due to the role they are playing against the Palestinian revolution. From the beginning we have accepted the Arab efforts to cease fire. As you know, this cease-fire decision lacks mechanism. The decision is still being withheld. We hoped that the GCC summit conference would continue its efforts to stop the shedding of Palestinian blood. It seems, however, that there is someone who opposes the GCC summit conference's efforts. They want to use this fragile cease-fire as a sword aimed against our heads. They want to impose their conditions on us. We hope there will be a responsible and realistic look at what is taking place and a realization of the dangers and dimensions of what will happen ....

[Abu Samra, interrupting] If the current efforts fail to achieve any result, what do you expect?

['Abd ar-Rahman] As I told you, there is a preparation to attack Tripoli. If they were sincere in their desire to choose the political settlement, they would link the cease-fire agreement with other political efforts. We were surprised, however, by demands made to us from the television here or there. The least that can be said about these demands is that they could not be serious. As I said, Tripoli's condition is very critical. As Brother Abu 'Ammar announced yeserday in his talk to correspondents, we see that there are military concentrations, namely the armored division of the Syrian Army. We ask: Is what is requested now the achievement of a political settlement or the destruction of the Palestinian revolution and the city of Tripoli? Through your radio, we call on our brothers in Syria to put an end to this deterioration, which will submerge all of us. If Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO drown, everybody else will also drown. Before it is too late, we call for the implementation of practical steps in order to achieve the political settlement.

Abu 'Ammar is prepared to meet with all the parties and in any place if the cease-fire is seriously implemented and if guarantees are presented to lift the siege from the camp, if the dissidents, their groups, and the PLA return to their previous positions, and if the Syrian guns and rocket launchers are removed. If this happens, then we will be prepared to meet with all the parties of the conflict whether here in Tripoli, in Damascus, in Tunis, or elsewhere in the Arab land. We sincerely hoped that Syria and the Syrian regime would play a role different than this with the PLO. We wish Syria would support the PLO and not stab us in the back.

Baghdad PLO Radio Updates Situation in N. Lebanon

10 Nov Report

JN101814 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Grave tension prevails in northern Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps following the reinforcement of Syrian, Libyan, and agent forces opposite Al-Baddawi refugee camp and the city of Tripoli. Al-Baddawi and the Tripoli suburbs came under intense artillery and rocket shelling by the Syrian, Libyan, and agent forces yesterday evening.

Our sources in northern Lebanon said that it has become clear that the number of wounded and dead civilians has risen notably following the death of several Palestinian civilians who were wounded as a result of the Palestinian refugee camps being hit by Syrian and Libyan phosphorus and napalm bombs. Palestinian medical centers are suffering an acute shortage of medicines, which is worsening the suffering of the wounded who have flooded the medical centers.

A new group of the Hittin forces has announced that it joined the Palestinian revolution forces, thus rejecting the orders of agent Tariq al-Khadra.

An official Palestinian spokesman has stated the following: While leading his fighters in the confrontation in the Dayr 'Ammar axis, brother Staff Colonel Abu Ta'an suffered from wounds that enabled the Syrian forces to capture him. He was transferred to a Homs hospital. Despite the condition of his health, his wounds, and pain, Syrian military intelligence subjected him to intensive interrogation sessions that completely exhausted him. We have reliable evidence that he was, and still is, undergoing torture at the hands of the Syrian military intelligence. We hold the Syrian authorities responsible for his safety.

11 Nov Report

JN111728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Al-Baddawi refugee camp and some areas of the city of Tripoli came under artillery and rocket shelling by the Syrian-Libyan and agent dissident forces today. Meanwhile, Syrian and Libyan military reinforcements are intensifying opposite Al-Baddawi camp, most of which has been destroyed by the Syrian, Libyan, and agent forces' shells.

In Tripoli, Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and Fatah Central Committee member, said that the Syrian and Libyan regimes' forces attempted to infiltrate in the direction of the Al-Baddawi camp near the oil refinery factory. Brother Abu Jihad explained that the attempt was foiled and that the infiltrators were repulsed.

In Tripoli also brother leader Abu 'Ammar said that he will not leave the city of Tripoli at a time when his people in the Palestinian refugee camps are being slaughtered.

12 Nov Report

JN121728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] On the military level, the Syrians, Libyans, and traitor dissidents continue to concentrate their forces opposite the Al-Baddawi camp and Tripoli. The Syrian regime has brought in new armored forces to the northern area. Reports from Tripoli say that intermittent shelling was aimed against the civilians in Al-Baddawi camp in the past few hours.

Our sources in northern Lebanon say that more than 800 Palestinian officers and soldiers have so far joined their brothers, the Palestinian revolution fighters, in northern Lebanon after refusing the orders of agent Tariq al-Khadra to attack their kinfolk and revolution in the northern camps. Some 46 tanks and their crews have also joined the Palestinian revolution forces. These tanks are in good condition. Some foreign correspondents, who cover the events in the north, say that they had seen groups of DFLP and PFLP fighters taking part in the fight against the Syrian-Libyan aggression on the Palestinian camps.

On the political level, world states, peoples, news media, and press continue to condemn the shelling of the Palestinian camps, the attacks on the PLO, and the siege imposed on the Palestinian camps and Tripoli. It becomes clearer day after day that the friendly Soviet Union is dissatisfied with the role played by the Syrian regime against the PLO and its leader Brother Abu 'Ammar.

In London, the Saudi Paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* says that Moscow has urged Damascus to move quickly and to immediately stop the battles in northern Lebanon. The paper says that in a message they sent to Damascus, the Soviets said they will not accept the continuation of the current situation regardless of any justification or excuse. The Saudi paper says that Moscow's stand constitutes a sudden change regarding the dissension inside Fatah. Moscow, the paper adds, has notified the PLO leadership of its message to Damascus.

13 Nov Report

JN131728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The Syrian, Libyan, and agent forces have been shelling the Al-Baddawi refugee camp since this morning. Also, some shells fell on Ba'l Muhsin, Ath-Tabbanah, and the coastal highway. One of the shells hit the remaining fuel storage tank at the refinery near Tripoli and set it on fire. The shelling is intermittent.

Yesterday evening, our heroic revolutionaries in northern Lebanon foiled an infiltration attempt by the Syrian special units, with some agent elements, on the Al-Fawwar-Al-'Ayrunah and Jabal Turbul axis.

Fatah Dissidents Form Central Committee

JN121246 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] According to a dispatch from London, the weekly *AL-MAJALLAH*, which is published in the British capital, has reported that the Fatah dissident leaders have formed their own central committee. It is composed of the following seven members:

1. Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], commander in chief;
2. Abu Khalid al-'Amlih, deputy commander in chief;
3. Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Mugagha], chief of staff;
4. Abu 'Ali Bsisu, officer in charge of security;
5. Samih Abu Kuwayk, chief of the political department;
6. Abu Akram [Musa 'Awad], officer in charge of recruitment;
7. Abu Majdi [Muhammad Badr], officer in charge of logistics.

Uprising Source on 'Arafat, Karami Call

JN121212 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] In a statement distributed in Damascus today, a responsible source in the uprising movement declared that because of the eagerness of the uprising movement's leadership to realize the demands for reform in the Fatah movement on the basis of democratic dialogue, national unity, and the maintenance of the Palestinian people's accomplishments within the framework of the PLO, the uprising has continually responded to all Palestinian and Arab efforts that call for avoiding internecine fighting. These efforts began with the call of the six-member committee and the Central Council committee, and ended with the call of the Gulf states' foreign ministers, represented by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The source also said that 'Arafat is still escalating and continuing his military concentrations against our forces stationed outside Tripoli and that he is still continuing his information campaigns, forging facts, and trying to draw Palestinian, Arab, and international sympathy. The source also explained that the military aggression which 'Arafat is launching against the uprising forces and his shelling of the inhabitants of the camps is meant to divert attention from the just reform demands of the uprising movement.

The source also pointed to former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami's statement, which expresses the Lebanese national opinion in the north and in the city of Tripoli, to find a solution that will guarantee the reinforcement of an alliance between the Palestinian revolution and the National Salvation Front [NSF]. The source said: We view Karami's statement as representing a serious call for a general national unity to confront the Zionist-imperialist scheme. We view the statement as a call for the unity of all nationalist forces in the city of Tripoli and in the north as well for the unity of the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters in one front. The source concluded: Because of our concern, we support and respond to Karami's call because it is the NSF's call and the call of the steadfast Lebanese people.

Uprising Spokesman Denies Syrian Involvement

NC101622 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Jihad Salih, a spokesman for the revolutionary uprising in the Fatah movement, has said that the exaggerated reports on the gravity of events, casualties, and losses in Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps are completely unfounded and are a part of a misleading campaign by 'Arafat and his clique. This campaign is being promoted by Western information media in support of 'Arafat.

At a news conference yesterday, Brother Salih denied news agency reports about alleged participation by Syrian forces in the clashes and said that 'Arafat has been implementing capitulationist plans.

Turbul VOPR Links 'Upsurges' in South, North

NC101245 Turbul Lebanon Voice of the Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Today national Lebanon is declaring its solidarity with the escalating upsurge of the masses in the south, especially since the great 'Ashura' day, against the barbarism of the heavy Zionist military occupation and its pillars. Now, the fighters of the revolutionary upsurge within the PLO groups are (?destroying) the last dens of national deviation and treachery which have been using northern Lebanon, or to be more exact, the camps of our people there. They also use its capital, Tripoli, the city of Lebanese nationalists, and their school as a center for directing their plots and [words indistinct] against everything that is clean and good in the Lebanese-Palestinian arena, which has been united through blood, tears, sacrifices, and by the heroism of the joint steadfastness in Beirut — one of its big and immortal models.

The Lebanese people with their broad national masses realized early the importance of the upsurge in the south for safeguarding the homeland and the importance of solidarity with it for protecting the unity of its land and its people. Our Arab Palestinian people — be they under occupation in the West Bank, the Gaza sector, the Galilee, on the coast, in the Negev, or in their various places of exile — will also realize the importance of [word indistinct] the march of the PLO, their only legitimate representative, and of safeguarding its [word indistinct] glorious struggle.

To our kinfolk in Al-Baddawi, Nahr al-Barid, and Tripoli: Yasir 'Arafat has persisted in ignoring the national aspirations of our people and their will for liberation and the return. In this context his envoys are continuing to hold a dialogue with King Husayn and his agent regime to become part of the fanciful U.S. solution by a false Palestinian authorization. Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's man, and the one who has a long history of pursuing the national cadres of the PLO by the repressive security network which he used to control in Beirut, is now in Amman to continue the negotiations started by 'Arafat last February before [words indistinct] national objection to it in the second week of April 1983. The upsurge of the south, with which all Lebanon is in solidarity today, and the Palestinian fighters' upsurge which at this moment is entering the [word indistinct] is necessary to get rid of the whirlpool of mixing the options. [words indistinct] By our armed struggle we are moving toward renewing its contemporary march by our triumphant upsurge which is being integrated now and which is unifying with the upsurge of the Lebanese nationalists along the one path that will lead only to triumph.

Dissident Fatah Leaders Roundtable Interview

JN102241 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1855 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Roundtable discussion with dissident Fatah leaders Nimr Salih, Samih Abu Kuwayk, Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, and Musa 'Awad questioned by *TISHRIN* Chief Editor 'Amid Khuri; date not given specified — video recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] There are many urgent questions about what happened and what is happening in the Lebanese arena, particularly in Tripoli and northern Lebanon. We submit these questions to brothers among the leaders of the Fatah uprising. They are Brother Nimr Salih, alias Abu Salih, member of the Fatah Central Committee and memebr of the Al-'Asifah forces General Command; Brother Samih Abu Kuwayk, alias Qadri, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Brother Staff Colonel Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, deputy secretary of the Fatah Central Council; and Brother Musa 'Awad, alias Abu Akram, memebr of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and official in charge of Fatah affairs in Lebanon. They will speak to us on the story of Fatah's differences with 'Arafat and the political and organizational background of these differences. Welcome to this roundtable discussion. We aks Brother Abu Salih to tell us the details of these differences.

[Salih] It may be useful to recall some events that violated the commitment to the Fatah program and national line. The conflict will continue in the Fatah movement and the Palestinian revolution as long as we are marching on the path to liberate Palestine. We were always proud that we could overcome all of our differences through the enlightenment of our cadres and leaderships, and out of a national feeling of responsibility. We have always rejected all of the suspect trends and movements that were always aimed at obliterating the Palestinian people's rights or at striking and breaking up the unity of the Palestinian revolution. We used to return these trends to their owners in the battles we waged.

However, in view of the U.S. pressure and onslaught against the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon, we used to follow a trend that led us to cede to our people's rights and to give up our rifles. We waged several battles against this trend and its delusions. However, what surprised us at the beginning of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon was the meeting we had 1 week before the invasion. There was a grave surprise in that meeting. In that meeting, some conferees said that an invasion was coming and defeat was inevitable.

These members went beyond that by calling for readiness to accept the U.S. plan. And , when we asked about the other options available to us, some members of the Central Committee said that we had no choice but to accept the Camp David accords. During that meeting we were surprised to find that the Palestinian homeland had become an option and that, according to our brothers' viewpoint, Palestinian rights had become autonomy. Acute differences began on that day, and the meeting ended with a storm unprecedented in Fatah. On that day it was said that our option was to adhere to our people's rights and to resist all enemies of our people, because there is no choice between independence and relinquishing the homeland. The meeting ended in a major storm, as I have said, and then came the invasion. There were also differences on the ways to resist the Israeli enemy.

The other surprise came on the night of 12 June — that is, 10 days after the invasion — when we were asked to view the invasion as if it were an inevitable result of fate. We were told about the [Israeli] army's entry and a suggestion was made to avoid any fighting at the doors of Beirut and get ready to leave via the International Red Cross. There were differences on this between the trend that wants to accept autonomy as the Palestinian people's right and the trend that wants to resist the U.S. solution and reject autonomy.

In Beirut, a large and long story transpired. In Beirut there were also differences regarding steadfastness. The trend that yielded to the aims of the invasion was against fighting, and acted against the fighters. This trend sometimes even set up intrigues for the fighters. The enlightened Palestinians managed to endure these pains during the siege of Beirut. The Palestinian cadres and leaderships who believed in rejecting autonomy and in confronting the invasion — and they were the majority — managed to isolate the trend calling for capitulation to the U.S. solution.

There were two conflicting trends on occupation. These conflicting trends existed during the siege and before our departure from Beirut. The two trends had different viewpoints on the nature of the continuation of the revolution or capitulation to the imperialist plan. One trend, led by 'Arafat, wanted a positive response to the demands of the U.S. solution. The other trend, which was eventually represented by the leadership of the uprising, viewed the steadfastness of Beirut as a new experience from which we should benefit along the path of continuing struggle by inflicting defeat on the U.S. solution and escalating struggle for the sake of attaining the Palestinian people's rights.

The conflict in the Palestinian arena began on the basis of the two trends. There were those who announced defeat and indulged in explanations in order to instill despair in the Palestinians and our cadres; and there were those who thought that the battle of Beirut revealed great facts, the most important of which was the fact that we are able to continue to carry the Palestinian rifle and the revolution and to prevent the U.S. solution in the Lebanese arena, not only in the Palestinian arena. Our Palestinian stand is fundamental. The United States wants to strike at this Palestinian stand which represents the basis for the Arab stand, which in turn is the basis for Arab commitment to the Palestine question and the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We faced Arab pressure to speed up our capitulation and our recognition of Camp David, and to reach agreement with King Husayn in order to join the settlement through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We held discussions that stemmed from several differences during the Fes summit conference. During a Fatah Central Committee meeting on 4 September — 2 days before, and while we were on our way to Fes — the Central Committee adopted a resultuion stipulating that we would reject all plans that would be submitted to the Arab summit — reject Reagan's plan, King Fahd's plan, and the European-Egyptian initiative. We were supposed to reject all plans that were going to be submitted to the summit, and as Palestinians we were supposed to call for forming an Arab committee to convey all of the plans to the big powers. The results of this committee — if the big powers were serious about achieving a just peace that guarantees our rights — would be submitted to the summit and we would consequently discuss it. We rejected any resolution that was submitted to the summit before we dsicussed it with a special committee and before the summit that follows the Fes summit. [sentence as heard]

We rejected all plans. On our way to Tunis and during a meeting of the Palestinian leaders, we also rejected any Arab demand made through the summit that diminsihed our principles, our aims, and political programs. We had information about an attempt to drag us into agreeing to a plan that included recognition of Israel. Everyone without exception rejected this demand. Reagan's plan was likewise rejected. We agreed to not announce this rejection in order to explore what would take place within the summit. However, the conferees regrettably did not help us. On the contrary, they asked us to make a concession to the seventh clause, which contained recognition of the right of the countries in the region. This manifestation was understood to be the first step for the recognition of Israel. The Palestinians rejected this manifestation.

[Khuri interrupts] You must specify here which Palestinians rejected it. Was 'Arafat among them? When you say "we," do you mean the leaders of the uprising now or were there other Palestinian names in the Fatah leadership who rejected all the settlements?

[Salih] Many principal Fatah cadres reject; when I say "we," I mean the leaders of the uprising and the comprehensive support it represents within the Fatah movement.

I shall return to Fes. In fact, the Palestinians who attended rejected the seventh clause. However, 'Arafat alone — along with one Palestinian group — insisted on recognition and insisted on this clause. After Fes, the conflict continued. Were we defeated in Beirut and therefore had to surrender? Or did we lose a position and then find that there were big gains we had to take with us and that we had to seek new Arab and international support and backing for our struggle in order to foil the U.S. solution and achieve our people's right to liberate our land?

This course has also continued without returning to the framework, the political program, and the satutes. We also had another round. We and everyone knew that those who disseminated ideas for the defeat in Beirut, and continued this dissemination under the pretext that there would be a great victory that must be exploited, reminded us of what As-Sadat said. They sought to exploit this victory by participating with Jordan in a delegation to the settlement [talks]. We knew this very well, and we discussed it during our meetings. We discussed this in a Fatah Central Committee meeting in Damascus. We also discussed this after the Fes Summit and the Palestinian split that occurred following the Fes Summit. The majority of the Palestinian resistance factions have rejected the three articles of the Fes Summit.

We also had a meeting during which we were cautious about an agreement with King Husayn. During our meetings, we drew up an agenda to be discussed and approved before going to Jordan. The majority of the Fatah Central Committee also rejected an agreement with King Husayn. Only 4 days after this meeting, we were surprised by an agreement that was signed in Jordan between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn. None of us knew the nature of that agreement, or had agreed on it. But we all knew that that agreement was not a confederation, or an agreement with the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It was an agreement authorizing King Husayn to lead a joint delegation to hold a dialogue with Israel in order to reach Camp David.

Following these developments, the course had deviated from our traditions and political program. This course also made unilateral decisions and issued propaganda for Reagan's plan. This course also called for a withdrawal from Lebanon. We were surprised by these attempts, which aimed at dealing a blow to the revolution. There was an insistence on depriving the Palestinians of their rifles. Regrettably, these attempts were carried out by the clique supporting this course led by 'Arafat.

After the Fes Summit and the talks held there, and after the Amman meeting and the talks held there, another meeting of the Fatah Central Committee was held in Tunis. During that meeting, a decision was made to call for the withdrawal of all Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to Iraq, Jordan, and Egypt. That decision was followed by an action against the fighters because it was met with wide-scale rejection in our bases. It was also rejected by the [Fatah] leadership and the Revolutionary Council. They also went far beyond instigation. They called for the fighters' departure from Lebanon to Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan. In light of this situation, the differences intensified regarding the call for striking at the means of the revolution — namely, the rifle and the agreement that was signed in Jordan on the basis of the confederation plan for the sake of autonomy.

It was natural for these differences to be intensified during a meeting of the Revolutionary Council in Aden. During that meeting, we submitted a memorandum calling for an emergency conference of the movement to be convened in order to discuss the serious cirucumstances and to correct all that had been approved and all that contradicts our political program and objectives. The Revolutionary Council's directives were bypassed.

The Revolutionary Council formed a committee to continue the dialogue. The Revolutionary Council also formed a committee following the denunciation of contacts with Zionist symbols such as General Peled and the meetings with the Israeli Labor Party officials in Hungary. The Revolutionary Council denounced those contacts and held the persons who had held the contacts responsible for unilateral actions. Following this, all the cadres of the Fatah movement unanimously agreed to prepare for a Fatah movement conference. After this, we were surprised by the unilateral decision calling for the dismissal of all strugglers who confronted this deviation. About 51 cadres were dismissed. Those cadres had assumed major responsibilities. In light of this situation, the first spark of the uprising had begun. This spark has continued and is still continuing.

[Khuri] I would now ask Brother Qadir to review the other stages of the dispute and how 'Arafat completely ignored Palestinian, Arab, and Syrian mediation.

[Abu Kuwayk] Undoubtedly, the time is too short to enable us to give our brother viewers a full account of the period that preceded the upheaval so that they can get acquainted with all chapters of this background history. We can say that there are two backgrounds to the upheaval. The first goes back to 1977, when As-Sadat delivered his speech in the Egyptian People's Assembly saying that he would visit the Knesset in order to destroy psychological barrier that existed between the Arab nation and Israel, as as-Sadat claimed. During that meeting, and without any justification, Brother Yasir 'Arafat [as heard] Anwar as-Sadat said: And here is my Brother Yasir. At that point, the cameras and the flashbulbs turned toward Yasir, who embraced As-Sadat after he had delivered his speech and taken that most humiliating move for the future of our cause and nation.

As I said, we do not have time to give all the details. It was clear that Yasir 'Arafat was cooperating with Anwar as-Sadat with unusual sympathy.

With regard to the Baghdad summit resolutions, which called isolating egypt after it signed the Camp David accords, many clandestine contacts were disclosed, but they were denied. However, the way in which they were denied confirmed that they actually took place.

Events continued until the summer of 1981. Everyone recalls that inthe summer of 1981 the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance was concluded. That strategic alliance signified that there was a U.S.-Israeli plan against this region. I recall that Alexander Haig stated that the United States hoped that friendly Arab states would join that strategic alliance. King Husayn commented on that statement in *THE WASHINGTON POST* by saying: The United states should not hope for friendly states to join in this U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, which is hostile to the Soviets, unless the Palestine question is solved first.

Here we put our finger on the central link of what was required. What was required was the solution to the Palestine question so as to officially remove any obstacles preventing certain states, which are known for their sympathy with the U.S. plan, from joining the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance. King Fahd's plan was proposed at that time. The plan was foiled in Fes. That was the first attempt to solve the Palestine question. Yasir 'Arafat, who was most enthusiastic about the plan, became angry. They used to always threaten us with an imminent invasion by saying: What you rejected by your conditions, you will accept against your own wish.

Indeed, preparations for facing invasion began. Faced with this reality, we discussed the matter and said that if the invasion was inevitable, then we should look for those who were ready to support the revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces to face this invasion. The only logical thing was to strike an alliance with Syria.

We decided at the Central Committee to hold a dialogue with Syria, which was then termed the strategic dialogue. I and Brother Abu Salim were in the Palestinian delegation headed by Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. Whenever we agreed on any provision, Yasir 'Arafat used to take it to Beirut and turn it into a program for amusement. In the end, we agreed on a statement concerning this dialogue. The version of this statement carried by the Damascus news agency was different from that carried by the WAFA news agency. Abu Iyad was compelled to say that the version carried by SANA was correct.

What I want to say here is that the dispute was on this point and many other points. The alliance with Syria at that time meant facing the invasion, the U.S. plan, and the U.S.-Israeli streategic alliance. Rejecting that alliance meant facing the invasion and a U.S. onslaught.

During a meeting of the Central Committee 5 days before the war, we included relations with Syria on the agenda on the basis that a decision had to be made to consolidate the alliance and coordination with Syria and the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar surprised us in that meeting with his very dangerous talk. Of course, Abu 'Ammar does not speak in classical Arabic. But on that day, his statement was written in classical Arabic. Brother Abu 'Ammar said at that meeting: We have tried to synchronize our step with the Syrian step. The two sides are now out of step. The region — notice that he was saying this 5 days before the war — is heading toward grave events which will be followed by a change in the balance of power, in the political map, and the structure of axes. He paused, then said: I know that I am talking about forbidden things, but you must decide on what axis you want to be.

Therefore, the alliance with Syria was no longer possible because the two sides were out of step. We no had to decided in what other axis we wanted to be. All this was taking place amid reports that the invasion was very near.

During this meeting, I recall that Brother Abu Salih told him: There is a USSR-Syrian axis to confront the U.S. plan. Abu 'Ammar responded to him by saying: Of course, you are Syria's most loyal men. Abu Salih replied: You are the Untied States' most loyal man. The argument ensued. A Few moments later Brother Abu 'Ammar raised his head and said: That is it, I have made my decision. This means that he alone made the decision that he was supposed to adopt within the Central Committee.

The invasion followed and Brother Abu 'Ammar specified his stand during the invasion. Throughout the war he did not initiate a single contact with President al-Asad except for the last contact at the end of the activities when it was officially requested that Syria receive part of the fighters who left Beirut. He would have had justifications had this incident been an isolated one. However, I said what I said in order to specify that Yasir 'Arafat defined his axis during the war. He did not, as he had said in several successive statements, stop making contacts with Husni Mubarak. I mean, this was taking place at a time when the events in Lebanon were being implemented as complementary to Camp David and its course. Contact with Husni Mubarak meant that you had to define to which axis you would belong. It was exactly specified to which axis we belonged.

As a matter of fact, we can say that this was the first dimension of the dispute between 'Arafat and us. The second dimension followed Beirut. There was the invasion and its objectives on the one hand and steadfastness and the lessons learned from it on the other. The objective of the invasion was the expulsion of the Paelstinians and Syrians from Lebanon and the establishment of a strong central Phalangist government. These objectives were announced by Begin himself. Of course, if these objectives were achieved, despair would engulf the entire region and we would be repeating the much repeated, immortal 'Arafat slogan: O, we are all alone. This slogan, which he always repeated, was intended to make our Palestinian masses in particular, and the Arab masses in general, lose faith in any hope in the future. We were all alone and the U.S. invasion was imminent and there was nothing to be done except what the Americans wanted.

Here we arrive at a crucial stage of this dictum. If we want to understand the background of this dictim, we say: On the basis of what took place in Beirut in terms of objectives and lessons, the start of the conflict within Fatah is specified. Do we arrange the future of Palestinian struggle on the basis of the objectives of the invasion, the departure from Lebanon, despair, and we are all alone? Or do we base the Palestinian national future on the two great lessons learned from the steadfastness in Beirut? The first lesson is: When the war with the enemy is protracted, its destructive effects will be transferred to the heart of the Zionist society creating divisions and rifts with massive impact on the Zionist future. The second lesson is: The Arab, Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese fighter has acquired an inner faith in his ability to stand fast, not only in the face of the Israeli enemy, but to also inflict the necessary defeats on it.

Therefore, we say that if we plan the Palestinian future on those two great lessons, then we shall have a greater scope. We must fight this enemy and reject its plans based on the objectives of the invasion — to expel us from Lebanon and, consequently, end the Palestinian revolution. As soon as we left Lebanon, we found that there were interrelated plans. On the first day after we left, Reagan's plan, which reduces the Palestinian rights by advocating administrative rule linked to the Jrodanian regime, was announced. After 5 or 6 days, we found out that events made it easy to convene an Arab summit after five calls for convening a summit during the war had failed. Afterward, we found out that the confederation plan was submitted as a form of bridging the Reagan and Fes plans. The confederation plan acknowledges the Reagan plan in one way or another. We found out that Yasir 'Arafat had, alone, accepted the Fes summit and we Learned there was a Palestinian acceptance of the confederation. Suddenly, we found out that we were meeting with and contacting the Zionists. This took place without a decision being made. We also dispersed our forces to the four corners of the world without a decision being made. Our leadership from thousands of kilometers away acknowledges the U.S. plan. This means that we were leaving the region because we were about to end armed struggle. Afterward, just as Brother Abu Salih said, we decided to withdraw from Lebanon and be stationed in Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan.

This would have meant repeating the 1948 tragedy. In 1948, the Salvation Army and holy Jihad turned into a national guard or elements in the Jordanian Army and, consequently, became unable to struggle. Anyone who refused to surrender his rifle was dragged behind horses from Nabulus and Hebron to Amman. Our forces were required to transfer from Lebanon to Jordan so the tragedy would be repeated in another form under the name of the Palestinian national army. This army would in fact possess rifles, but not to fight with. Here lies the essence of the conspiracy: We had to withdraw.

We found in one way or another that there was no longer any chance for a solution between us and this leadership which decided everything. In the Central Committee, we were not consulted on what was taking place, and the same applied to the Revolutionary Council. Yasir 'Arafat adopted resolutions and the others had to accept them. I do not say that Yasir 'Arafat alone adopted these resolutions; a certain group shared in the adoption of these resolutions.

We in the Central Committee discovered that we did not know anything that 'Arafat did. Therefore, this serious defect in fateful issues had to be stopped. As Brother Abu Salih said, we appealed to the Revolutionary Council and submitted a memorandum, which Brother Abu Musa read. The memorandum called for canceling the wrong resolutions which violate the Charter, the basic law, and the political program. We wanted to hold a congress. If neither demand was met, God will testify that we have said our word. It was clear that this phrase implied threat. Our demands were not approved and Brother Abu Salih was dismissed from the PNC and frozen in the Central Committee. Moreover, Brother Abu Akram was dismissed from the PNC and I was prevented from talking in the PNC. What was unacceptable and unreasonable was consecrated in the PNC.

We found that Abu 'Ammar was deeply involved in King Husayn's confederation and in Reagan's plan. He was about to sign as an agreement was reached on everything. Even Brother Abu 'Ammar amended some phrases in Reagan's plan and returned this to King Husayn, who approved them. The plan was typed and signed by King Husayn and then returned to Abu 'Ammar for signing. He was then told to wait. Regardless of what was said about the word "wait" in Kuwait, there was a specter looming large on those who met in Kuwait to be asked if they would sign the Reagan plan or not. In order for the Reagan plan to be peddled, the Palestinian revolution had to be liquidated in Lebanon.

Therefore, Yasir 'Arafat came to Damascus. It was the first visit. He met with President al-Asad for 3 and 3/4 hours during which he did not utter a word except in commendation of the Swedish girls — as he had arrived from Sweden a few days before that. It was the president who talked and 'Arafat said nothing. We believe that he came to see the president in order to suggest that his arrival or his future behavior was agreeable to the president. He adopted organizational and political decisions in an attempt to organize the Palestinian arena so he could announce that the Palestinian rifle had been bridled and could no longer move in a way that would frighten the U.S. plan.

'Arafat came and adopted decisions. These decisions were like a military and organizational coup. Qadri was dismissed from the organization and the Jordanian affairs organ was canceled — and this was like a down payment to King Husayn to show that the organ which might disturb him had been dissolved. Fifty-one decisions were made under which not a single officer could say no to anything. Otherwise, he would be tranferred to distant ports — to Algeria, Tunisia, or Yemen. We now have exiles and it seems that God has in the end granted us distant exiles. 'Arafat brought those greedy officers who could implement what he wanted.

The most danegrous aspect of those decisions was one thing: It was the appointment of Colonel Abu Hajim as commander of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon. One month before that date, Col Abu Hajim was appointed commander of the revolution forces in Jordan according to an agreement with [Jordanian Army Commander] Zayd ibn Shakir. This is what Yasir 'Arafat told us.

[Khuri] Who is Abu Hajim?

[Abu Kuwayk] Abu Hajim is Col Ghazi 'Atallah, brother of Colonel 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu az-Za'im.

[Khuri] What was his job before or during the invasion?

[Abu Kuwayk] He was commander of the Al-Karamah forces. He played a nice role in not confronting the onslaught.

[Khuri] There is information that 'Arafat ordered him on the eve of the invasion to withdraw from the south. He also ordered the others to do so.

[Abu Kuwayk] I cannot say that I have complete information. There was talk in this regard. I heard it, as many others did.

[Khuri] He was appointed to this post as a reward?

[Abu Kuwayk] Something like that. You can say that appointing a person as commander of the revolution forces in Jordan, and then as commander of the revolution forces in Lebanon, means that we want to withdraw. This commander will act as the main locomotive. He will put the fighters in the cars behind him and drive them directly to Amman without any differences. He will be the same commander and there will be no change when he arrives in Jrodan.

Accordingly, we found ourselves facing difficult options: either to yield to these decisions and get the revolution liquidated, or to take action. We moved practically in the last centimeter and at the last historic moment. Had we not moved at that last moment, we would have found ourselves face to face with the Paelstinian withdrawal from Lebanon with all its dangers.

Originally, the Palestinian withdrawal from Lebanon embarrassed the Syrian stand. It became a stand lacking the pan-Arab dimension in the absence of the Paelstininan forces. Some people were told to end the issue and eventually it created a subversive atmosphere in the Arab arena allowing for the U.S. plan to pass. In view of these facts we had to move. We moved and staged our uprising on 10 May. If we had not done so, it would have been recorded that the Palestinian people did not carry out their role properly in confronting the U.S. plan and that the sacrifices of our masses and people were unjustly discarded.

Our demands were clear and had organizational and political dimensions. The Palestinian arena was unanimous in considering them just demands representing Palestinian unanimity. Some objected to our style saying that we should appeal to frameworks and institutions. Which frameworks? We sought the arbitration of the Fatah Central Committee and discovered that Abu 'Ammar adopted a decision in Fes contrary to the decision of the Central Committee which refused to recognize the proposed plans, as Brother Abu Salih said. Brother Abu Salih told Abu 'Ammar not to go to Jordan because his departure there would not be the same as leaving for Tunis or Riyadh because the king had a plan which he wanted us to approve. Abu 'Ammar said: No, brother, I am going to San'a' and will return here again. He went to San'a', Baghdad, Riyadh, and then Amman in order to become deeply involved in dialogue with King Husayn on the basis of Reagan's plan.

'Arafat surprised us by meeting with the Zionists. Like any other ordinary citizens, we consider such decisions as affecting issues of destiny. Meeting with the Zionist enemy affects national conscience, torpedoes the foundations of national struggle, and undermines the rules of the conflict with the enemy. 'Arafat alone made the decision to meet with the Zionists. He and Mahmud 'Abbas espoused the philosophy that there are two types of Zionism: progressive Zionism and reactionary Zionism. The United Nations passed a resolution considering Zionism a racist movement, but we, the beneficiaries of this resolution, say that there are two types of Zionism. Andropov forms a Soviet committee to combat Zionism, and we say that there are two types of Zionism, one progressive and the other reactionary, and we meet with the Zionists.

Such a situation cannot be acceptable under any circumstances whatsoever. We are being told to resort to our institutions, but when we speak up in the Central Committee, someone tells us to shut up. Why should I shut up? This is a historical responsibility connected to tens of thousands of martyrs who have fallen in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy and in facing the imperialist-Zionist plan against our entire Arab homeland since the turn of the century. Therefore, how can we shut up? Still, they continued this policy.

We also resorted to the Revolutionary Council. We found that 'Arafat used to make decisions and then immediately disavow them. What is the use of the Revolutionary Council making decisions when we discover that they are mere words which are not worth the ink with which they were written? Here we found that taking action has become a national responsibility, because if we did not take any action, then we would be cursed by history. There are many things which I want to say, but time is short.

[Khuri] Can we turn to another point on this particular subject, the allegd Syrian role in the dispute between the Fatah upheaval and 'Arafat and his clique?

[Abu Kuwayk] No doubt, this question touches on the attitude of many persons who try to resort to such allegations in order to either justify their hostile attitude toward the upheaval, or to back a stand in favor of the deviationist line. They cast doubt on others and say: We are abandoning independent national decisionmaking and so forth. It is as if Yasir 'Arafat really has anything to do with independent decisionmaking. Yasir 'Arafat abandoned independent decisionmaking.

I will now speak about the meaning of independent decisionmaking. When Yasir 'Arafat agreed to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for backing the steadfastness, he gave King Husayn the right to represent our people.

[Khuri interrupts] We will come to this point later. Let us now consider the alleged Syrian role and the background which prompted 'Arafat to involve Syria's name in this alleged dispute, when he sensed his defeat....

[Abu Kuwayk interrupts] Brother 'Amid, they are two questions in one.

[Khuri] Yes.

[Abu Kuwayk] They are two questions in one — independent decisionmaking and the Syrian role. The purpose is to say that there is a conflict over the independent decisionmaking and that Syria wants to take the Palestinian card and sallow up independent Palestinian decisionmaking in order to play on public feelings.

[Khuri] What do we understand by independent decisionmaking, and how should it be practiced?

[Abu Kuwayk] Independent decisionmaking must be practiced only within the perspective of pan-Arab struggle. This decisionmaking must not be practiced for the sake of surrender. It should be a militant independent national decisionmaking. When it is so, it will be independent and nobody will be able to contain it. It is on this basis that we say that independent Palestine decisionmaking in the context of the Syrian role... [sentence incomplete] The thing is, Yasir 'Arafat wants to remove the conflict from its Fatah framework, where he cannot defend himself because he is weak organizationally and politically. How can he get out of this dilemma? He tries to turn toward Syria. He then insults Syria and its role and speaks about the Syrian tanks and their role. This is all to cover up his position, because all the facts disprove that.

[Khuri] Exactly what do you mean by that?

[Abu Kuwayk] The Palestinian organziations announced more than once that there is no truth to the reports regarding Syrian intervention. The facts on the ground prove that very often the Syrian forces stopped the advance of our forces to prevent any clashes. They actually disengaged the forces. Also, very often they advised Brother Abu Musa to move his forces back. They even fired rockets as a warning to him.

But the purpose of involving Syria's name in this particular area was to remove the conflict from its Fatah framework and Arabize it. There was constant pressure on Syria. Yasir 'Arafat was expelled as a result of this pressure. That was Yasir 'Arafat's plan. He seized on this point and began crying out: The PLO leader was expelled. The PLO leaders were discredited. Of course, Yasir 'Arafat possesses three machines: the machine of lies, the machine of funds, and the machine of information. He lies as often as I breath air. This is known about him everywhere.

The other thing is that 'Arafat possesses enormous funds. He doles out this money in every direction. He sometimes buys houses for the persons that he wants to win over. To him, buying a house is as easy as buying a pack of cigarettes. Then there is the media which have been placed at his disposal — from Wahsington, to Radio Monte Carlo, which allows him 1 hour of talk every day, to all the reactionary media in the region. All of them are at his service: Hasan, Husni, Husayn, Numayri, and Saddam Husayn. They are all serving this trend. We regret to say that these media are serving one man, and that there is a blackout on the facts about the Fatah upheaval.

We say that the Syrian role is neutral. This is because Syria cannot but adopt a neutral stand in such a dispute. Many say that Syria backed the occupation of Fatah offices in Damascus. There was no occupation of offices. There was an upheaval in the offices. The offices we seized, even the offices of their leaders, we seized through their own aides. This is because we represent the conscience of these people, these fighters. There is no upheaval in the offices. 'Arafat enphasizes these upheavals by saying: Were it not for the Syrian role and support, these upheavals would not have taken place.

We can say that our masses, which are very mature, have begun to discover 'Arafat's outright lies. They have begun to discover that it is not true that what is happening on the ground is connected with a Syrian role in the sense that Syria is partial toward one side against the other. We can act, but the method Yasir 'Arafat uses is aime not only at harming Syria, but also at moving the conflict from the Fatah level to the Arab level so that he can act freely and with unlimited flexibility. Hence, he will polarize all those who do no want him to fall, because the Palestine cause has become the crux of the Arab struggle and the Middle East crisis.

When Yasir 'Arafat becomes shaken, you will find that France, the reactionaries, and Europe will cry. When he asked for something, they never gave him anything. When he began to fall, they found that they began to lose the Paelstinian file.

In order to attract the masses, they said that there is an aggression against Palestinian decisionmaking and the national independent decisionmaking. Our masses began to be aware of all this and to change their stances. We admit that Yasir 'Arafat represents a symbol to the masses. These masses are now beginning to change their opions. Gradually, they are discovering that this man who was empowered with the independent decisionmaking has exploited it in order to enter into disputes and get involved in a settlement which is not related to the trust placed in him by the masses.

[Khuri] We can say that the screams are to sell and endorese the independent decisionmaking to future capitulatory plans, foremost being reconsideration of the Jordanian option.

[Abu Kuwayk] The independent decisionmaking was lost. The decision of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee was obvious — the support for our people's steadfastness in the occupied territories must only be reached through the Jordanian regime and its intelligence men — 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Shawkat Mahmud. There are too many details which there is no need to talk about.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah told the PLO Executive Committee members that we agreed to the confederation as a tactical step to overcome three obstacles: 1) the independent state; 2) self-determination; 3) the formation of the delegation that would negotiate with Israel. Even the delegation must not be independent. Despite all this, we raise the victory sign and say that decisionmaking must be independent. Whenever we defend and entrench independent decisionmaking as a national and militant right, Yasir 'Arafat and his allies shout and say that there is a threat to this independent decisionmaking and against the PLO and its sole representation of the Palestinian people. A shaykh in the occupied territory cursed us and commended Yasir 'Arafat. He was told that this is shameful — if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth [Koranic verse]. The shaykh said: I have in my hand an order from the Jrodanian awqaf minister to curse Abu Salih and his group and commend Yasir 'Arafat and his group.

There is interference. Who is interfering in the occupied territory? I admit that the propaganda has influence on the masses. Our masses realize the facts. Demonstrations were staged in support of the upheaval. While the enemy's cameras were focused on a demonstration in Nabulus led by Hikmat al-Masri in support of Yasir 'Arafat, another demonstration in support of the upheaval was staged in the same place. The enemy intended not to concentrate on the demonstration which was staged in support of the upheaval. We have information that there is a real change in the occupied territories. The masses are eager to know the facts. They know that organized corruption has moved into the occupied territory. The money which has corrupted many people outside the occupied territory is beginning to be used in the occupied territory. The repercussions of this corruption were represented by turbulence in the work in the occupied territory and a failure in escalating the armed struggle as the only option to confront the occupation.

[Khuri interrupts] Why has 'Arafat given up the military option?

[Abu Kuwayk] Becuase he is no longer capable of carrying out this military struggle if he wants to join the settlement process. The price for his joining Reagan's plan for a confederation was that he must pull these forces out with their guns and have them leave for Jordan; to go there with their guns not to fight, only for the sake of appearances. By this he has given up the military option. One of the brothers in the Central Committee, whom I need not name, when I asked him how to escalate military action, told me that when he hears someone speaking about military struggle, he thinks it is a joke. Thus, military struggle has become a joke, a joke because anyone who wishes to join a settlement of this size and dimension must certainly consider this military struggle, which was an ideology, as a joke. This is what has taken place within Fatah and in the entire Palestinian arena.

[Khuri] Can we say that 'Arafat's rejection of all the Palestinian mediations and the resolutions of the democratic Palestinian institutions is part of his overall plan to undermine the Fatah arena with the purpose of joining the peace settlements that were submitted?

[Khalid al-'Amlah] From the the beginning of the dispute, many attempts have been made to avoid resorting to Palestinian institutions or to avoid discussing the issue and settling it within a Palestinian framework. For example, when the dispute began, most of our friends and those who support Palestinian action approached us, submitted plans, and tried to reconcile us and settle the points of difference. All those who visited us, whether they were friends from the progressive countries or Arab friends, or progressive parties and institutions, told us: We support your demands. All of them encouraged us by saying: You are the ray of hope that will save the deteriorating situation in the region.

From the beginning, we have been sincere with ourselves. We submitted a comprehensive solution, a comprehensive program. We asked that this program be announced by the Central Committee. But this was to no avail. The dispute continued until it reached the Central Council. In the Central Council, an 18-member committee was formed. Our people are proud of the many names which figured on the committee to settle the dispute between us. They are patriotic figures. They met with us for long hours and also met with the brothers in Tunis. They met with all the resistance factions. We believe that the 18-member committee represents Palestinian consensus. In reality, it represents the Palestinian people. It submitted a proposal and was serious and honest in telling the truth which our people must know. The members submitted several points for settling the dispute including a political declaration around which the Palestinian resistance would rally, a political declaration that will define the objectives on which there will be a Palestinian consensus. This was mentioned in the memorandum. They called for the formation of a provisional command that would supervise Fatah and enjoy all the prerogatives. This is a practical solution for settling the crisis. They handed us the memorandum and said they expected our reply. We sent them a letter containing two lines saying: We support the contents of your memorandum in letter and spirit. We hope the Central Committee will respond to the Palestinian committee's demand and to the demands of the Palestinian wise men. They, however, rejected the committee's memorandum.

We do not say that the committee acted in a responsible manner. Also, we do not believe that all the points submitted by the committee embodied all that we needed. However, we saw in it the starting point which consistituted a condemnation of those who had deviated from PLO principles. This condemnation was implied in the manner with which they had asked for the formation of the temporary committee. There were 18 Palestinian figures, strugglers, very well known by our people, and honest figures. They said what they had to say. They wanted to serve the Palestinian people. We approved, but they, regrettably, refused. On the contrary, they seek to evade honest mediators. They are seeking to hide behind mediations whose objective is not to protect the revolution. They are hiding behind mediations which aim to destroy what the Palestinian revolution has built. In most cases, these mediations seek to deal with the dispute within a non-Palestinian framework.

If we deal with the dispute within a Palestinian framework, I believe that there is no Palestinian who will not support the continuation of the revolution or rejject administrative self-rule. I do not believe any Palestinian will agree that Palestinian blood and efforts, which have been offered to defend the Palestinian people's rights, can be transformed into a spearhead for imperialist and reactionary interests.

Anyone who hears the radio will sense how important 'Arafat is to France, the United States, Sudan, and Egypt. It will be no surprise if Reagan, Cheysson, Israel, and Jordan, whose media is active, as well as Egypt, say now that 'Arafat's collapse will mean the collapse of the settlement. Therefore, 'Arafat, and those who support him portray the Camp David image. 'Arafat has now become the symbol behind which the Camp David capitals hide to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to settle Palestinian issues in conformity with the will of these capitals, which are raising a hue and cry over 'Arafat in accordnace with a phony media campaign. They are speaking about the Palestinian people and blood, they who had disavowed the Palestinians and massacred the Palestinians. These capitals are the ones which killed the Palestinians and which are refusing to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. They are also the ones which are conspiring against the region and the Palestinians.

All this clearly shows where 'Arafat stands and which capitals are supporting him. I will not say anything further to allow my brothers to speak, but I say that these capitals are anxious because the revolution has been reborn, strong and capable. This causes them grave anxiety. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz said: If the rebels in Fatah triumph and succeed in gaining the upper hand within the Palestinian revolution, the situation in the region will go back to what it was 10 years ago.

[Khuri, interrupting] With respect to the settlement process?

[Al-'Amlih] Yes. Shultz said that if the will for change triumphs within the resistance movement — and by this he means the trend led by the upheaval and its allies in the Palestinian arena — then the United States will sustain a serious setback which it has prepared for over the past 10 years.

There is another point: I do not believe that the Palestinian revolution can become any stronger than it is now. We now have double the number of weapons we had before the upheaval. Our forces possess more military hardware and are deployed in areas in Lebanon far bigger than in the past. On our role in Lebanon, I can proudly say and congratulate all the Fatah cadres that our role and our allies in the Lebanese arena have cast the United States into the big dilemma which it is experiencing. Those capitals which are expressing anxiety over 'Arafat now are really anxious about the revolution which has been reborn.

[Khuri] The most improtant question now is about what is currently taking place in Al-Baddawi, Nahr al-Barid, Tripoli, and in northern Lebanon. The Western media, which have the means to distort the facts, are depicting the situation as if there is a war of extermination against the Palestinians in these camps. We would like Brother Staff Colonel Abu Khalid al-'Amlah to inform us on what is taking place in these two camps, on the military battles, and the size of the real casualties, if possible, and then to turn our attention to a more important question on the timing of 'Arafat's return to Tripoli with the escalation of the imperialist-U.S. onslaught against the region and the massing of U.S. and NATO fleets off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts. As you know, there are 60 U.S. and NATO naval units, including five aircraft carriers. We would like to know if 'Arafat's return is connected to this campaign and the threats that are being directed against Syria. What is the exact situation in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid at present?

[Al-'Amlah] We say that what has taken place within Fatah is an expression of the real crisis within the Palestinian revolution. It is an expression of our ideological, political, and organizational crisis. We are trying to contribute to settling this crisis on the basis of confrontation. Yasir 'Arafat wants to leave the struggle arena. We want to remain in the struggle arena. Yasir 'Arafat came here and made the resolutions, as the brothers have mentioned. They described these resolutions as a coup. This is true. He wanted to end the revolution. We support the continuation of the revolution. Yasir 'Arafat relinquished the revolution. This means he does not want a revolution. He meets with Zionists and refuses to sit with his brothers and hold a dialogue with them. If he still has some patriotioc feelings, such a dialogue will not tarnish him. What will tarnish him is his attempt to flout the laws of the struggle in our country and to make every Arab citizen believe that meeting with the Zionists and coexisting with the Zionists is a normal thing. All this is done by whom? By the person who used to be called the symbol of the Palestinian revolution, the symbol which emerged through Palestinian blood. It would be a shame for 'Arafat to exploit this in order to sell the cause, the people, and the homeland.

Let us go back to the issue of the fighting. There are some who want the Palestinian revolution to continue. Therefore, they have no interest in internecine fighting. We say frankly that any drop of blood which has been shed pains us. However, we cannot consider things from one angle, but must view them within their proper context. Yasir 'Arafat's decisions were decisions leading to dissension and division. Yasir 'Arafat's decisions were decisions underming the revolution and wiping it out. Yasir 'Arafat's decisions depart from the struggle course. We told Yasir 'Arafat that we reject these resolutions. He sought to circumvent this rejection and to belittle it. He tried to make our people believe that there is nothing, that all that is taking place is a tempest in a teacup. When Yasir 'Arafat sensed that it was not a tempest in a teacup, he adopted several decisions to contain it. He suspended supplies and funds in the hope that he might be able to blackmail us. At the time, we had no money, no relations with either Syria or Libya. We say frankly and without embarrassment that we did not have any relations. We realized very well that this was the national stand, the committed and principled stand which we must adopt. If we succeeded in acheiving the protection of the revolution, then it would be a very good thing. If not, we would be on the right course and let others say what they are saying about us.

'Arafat tried to blackmail us but he failed to do so. We remained for 40 days telling 'Arafat no without any bullets being fired by us, although Khalil al-Wazir, from the first days, tried in the Ba'labakk area and the Nabi Sabt to send some elements whom he had convinced that they were fighting Libyans and agents. When they discovered the truth, they joined our ranks. He pushed Abu Hajim into the fighting. We besieged him but he did not reply. Yasir 'Arafat attacked a position which had expressed support for us with a battaltion called the September Martyrs Battalion in the Shtawrah area. He attacked this position, and shelled it with artillery. Again we did not respond. 'Arafat, through his official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, boasted that he had made a decision to fight and that Yasir 'Arafat personally supervised this fighting, and that he will continue with this policy to liquidate the rebels. These are public statements and these facts are known by the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters and the Lebanese and Palestinian masses.

When Yasir 'Arafat failed to contain the upheaval which had asked him to abide by the political program and the basic statutes of the Fatah movement, and when he rejected this and fought the upheaval without achieving any success, he tried to Arabize the dispute and accused Syria and Libya of fighting Yasir 'Arafat. It is no military secret if we reveal that the Libyans in Lebanon have no tanks. It is shameful to have a leader who is a liar. These facts are important to our masses who are not aware of the truth, and who can be deceived and duped by exaggerations and by distributing false roles. We do not believe that Yasir 'Arafat is an ignorant person and acts spontaneously. No. He seeks to mobilize the Palestinian people and the Arab masses against Syria and Libya because they are two positions which are confronting this onslaught. This is something which has been preplanned, and Syria confronts this plan.

Yasir 'Arafat is not ignorant. He only seeks to weaken the capacity for confrontation, to weaken the rallying of the Palestinian and Arab masses around the positions of confrontation. This is very clear to us. Yasir 'Arafat pursued this policy. We said: Let us continue dialogue.

'Arafat banned dialogue by a written order. Whoever wants a dialogue with us will be taken to account. When Fatah cadres and bases rejected 'Arafat's decision banning dialogue, 'Arafat resorted to the fighting which we have mentioned in order to prevent the dialogue. It was Yasir 'Arafat who rejected the dialogue; we did not reject the dialogue.

[Khuri] Yasir 'Arafat rejected the dialogue with his comrades contrary to the resolutions adopted by Palestinian institutions and mediation committees. He accepted the dialogue with Zionist forces contrary to the resolutions adopted by the Palestinian institutions. How do you explain such a matter — to reject dialogue with his comrades and accept dialogue with his main enemies, the Zionists?

[Al-'Amlah] As I have said, he moved from the revolution trench to the antirevolution forces. If Yasir 'Arafat was in the revolution trench, he would find a solution to all that is taking place. The only change that occured to 'Arafat was his commitment, that is, if he had a national stance. He rejected all this. His decision on 14 September 1982 was to end the armed Palestinian presence in the Lebanese and Syrian arenas and move it to Baghdad, Amman, and Cairo — the U.S. bloc — away from the battlefield. This explains Yasir 'Arafat's moves and his relations with the Zionists. We kept meeting with our brothers in the Fatah cadres and bases who declared their support for us. I can say now that more than 90 percent of the Al-'Asifah forces — cadres and bases — support the upheaval. Our losses in the fighting are exaggerated by Yaisr 'Arafat; they have not reached the number of those whom Yasir 'Arafat killed in the Al-Baddawi refuggee camp from the PFLP-GC. We did not fight because our cadres and fighters are alert and patriotic. These cadres and fighters did not follow Yasir 'Arafat's course. Some of them did not know the facts. Through dialogue they realized the facts and joined their brothers so that the revolution will continue.

The fighting in the mountain took place, the Phalangists came, the Zionist withdrawal from the mountain also took place, and the National Salvation Front was formed. It is no secret that we have supported the Lebanese nationalists in a battle we believe is also our battle. The Zionist occupation concerns every Arab. 'Arafat not only did not fight, but, with Salah Khalaf and Khalil al-Wazir, they announced that they were ready to depart. 'Arafat also highly praised Amin al-Jumayyil's stance. By a miracle, the Lebanese Army has become an Arab army. 'Arafat began to curse Walid Junblatt. This is a shame. The Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Lebanese people are fully aware of the meaning of the conflict and the relationship. We must support the Lebanese people and their Nationalist Movement.

Yasir 'Arafat was in Tunis, in the Salwa Hotel, there is the diaspora of the military force, for the purpose of dissolving the revolution. This was a decision of which we in Beirut were not aware. His agreement with Habib while in Beirut was to end the revolution.

[Khuri] At last, Yasir 'Arafat came to Tripoli. Why?

[Al-'Amlah] I believe that Yasir 'Arafat's presence in Tripoli falls within the framework of what is taking place in the Lebanese arena. In other words, he came to serve the postion he joined. He came to abort Lebanese nationalist efforts by creating rifts. He came to abort Palestinian efforts in the Lebanese arena. He came to create sedition in the Lebanese arena. He came to tell the people that Yasir 'Arafat can be of benefit to the other program. The Lebanese nationalist efforts, the Palestinian efforts, and Syria are exposed to hostile onslaughts and plots. Yasir 'Arafat wants to throw a smokescreen around the situation and show our masses in a false light to strike at their solidarity in order to create this sedition and bloodshed which he is talking about.

What is strange is the great interest in Yasir 'Arafat shown now by the imperialist, reactionary, and Zionist forces. Our people are surprised at this. If we realize what is happening, we will find that they are defending Yasir 'Arafat, who has promised them that he is capable of ending this revolution and able to strike at the Arab confrontation forces. They are honest with Yasir 'Arafat as he was honest with their program.

[Khuri] His return to Tripoli was in harmony with his new identiy and new course. He sent a message to the United States on his blows dealt to the nationalist forces in Tripoli and his brothers in the Fatah upheaval.

[Al-'Amlah] Some facts we did not mention in the previous stage. In the Tripoli area, some Fatah forces joined our upheaval about 2 months ago, but we have not announced this. Most of the Fatah fighters joined us. Yasir 'Arafat still has some mercenaries, henchmen belonging to some organs, and the remnants of the Palestine Liberation Army in Egypt.

These young men are patriots. Their personal circumstances, however, may have made them sympathize with 'Arafat only within the framework of his interests. Yasir 'Arafat has executed more than seven of our young men without our announcing this. Yasir 'Arafat killed 18 fighters from the PFLP-GC in Al-Baddawi camp. Yasir 'Arafat is fighting the Lebanese nationalists and communists. Yes, this is his message to the United States and to everybody. He wants to tell them: This is my position and my new identity.

In whose interest is Yasir 'Arafat fighting? Not content with this, during the past 2 weeks, from his positions in the area near Tripoli, 'Arafat used his artillery and rocket launchers to shell positions belonging to us and to many Palestinian forces. He expelled some factions from positions in our refugee camps. Yasir 'Arafat has not desisted for one moment in exacerbating the situation in Tripoli because the method which we adopted in the past stage disturbed him very much. Calm dialogue and establishing relationships with the cadres and the young men is a method which harms 'Arafat. That is why he resorted to exacerbation, to killing. He began by sending patrols, telling them: Go and bring a Libyan prisoner. 'Arafat should be ashamed because he knows and all our masses there and the Lebanese people know that there is no Libyan fighter in Tripoli. He says that the Syrians are fighting. I defy him to prove that any single Syrian position opened fire on a Palestinian camp.

[Khuri] Let us pause for a moment to clarify this point. 'Arafat raises a hue and cry over Syrian tanks and Syrian forces which storm the refugee camps and kill Palestinian brothers. The image conveyed about the atrocity of what has been taking place during the past few days makes one believe that some kind of a massacre has taken place in these two camps. I hope you will explain what took place in the two camps and give us a true picture of the real situation as well as the so-called role of the Syrian tanks in the fighting and the size of the casualties among the Palestinian brothers and fighters.

[Al-'Amlah] We truthfully tell our kinfolk, our people, and our Arab masses that all these media reports which Yasir 'Arafat has employed to stir up the feelings of our people and make them believe that the Syrian and Libyan Armies are fighting in our camps are falsehoods and are groundless. We defy Yasir 'Arafat to prove through any Palestinian popular committee that we or the Syrian and Libyan Armies fired a single shell at the Nahr al-Barid camp. Not a single fighter from the uprising or any other position reached Al-Barid camp. Yasir 'Arafat's cliques were present in Al-Barid. Our masses moved and expelled these cliques from Al-Barid camp. These cliques, particularly the forces of 17, opened fire on our masses and some shells fell on the camp. Only two houses were hit by these shells. Four martyrs fell and 11 others were wounded by the fire of Yasir 'Arafat's forces of 17. We ask to be taken to account by our masses if other losses were inflicted. This is the fact. All that is being said about Syrian tanks, guns, Libyan or Syrian rocket launchers, rebels, and other things is baseless.

The same applies to Al-Baddawi. We have not fired a single shot or shell at Al-Baddawi camp. Some of Yasir 'Arafat's positions around Al-Baddawi clashed with some of our positions. Certainly, returning fire in self-defense is natural. We expect our masses in the Al-Baddawi camp to do what our masses did in the Nahr al-Barid camp. Yasir 'Arafat is stationing his guns and rocket launchers in Tripoli. So far, we have not fired a single shell or shot at the city of Tripoli. Certain Lebanese Nationalist Forces, which can be named now or in the future, stress that Yasir 'Arafat fired his shells at Tripoli to stir up the masses there. He shelled the refinerh area and Zgharta for the sake of agitation and sedition.

We thank our masses in Tripoli for their stands. We thank the grouping of parties, the national grouping, and the city's functionaries who realized that 'Arafat was seeking to stir up sedition in Tripli and therefore asked him to leave. 'Arafat's claim that hundreds and thousands of casualties were inflicted is false, a sheer lie. Our masses know and will tell the truth. They will say what a swindler and liar 'Arafat is. This is not said as a slander against 'Arafat, but is the truth. The losses in the north are not worth mentioning in comparison with 'Arafat's previous practices against our masses in our camps.

We remind our masses of the year 1979 when Col Abu Hajim shelled the Nahr al-Barid camp. With whom is Yasir 'Arafat fighting? He is using the defeated leaderships which are condemned for their behavior and actions. He is fighting with Haj Isma'il, Abu Hajim, and Abu Ta'an, who is know for his plotting and collusion. 'Arafat is fighting with defeatists who were condemned by the Fatah movement's cadres and members and by our masses who knew them in the south or Al-Biqa'. Those defeatists did not fight our enemies although fighting them is the reason for our presence. They are well known. Our people in the Nahr al-Barid camp are very happy to get rid of cliques and of the terrorism practiced by Raji an-Najami and his gangs against our people in Al-Barid camp. The Tripoli people will rejoice when we get rid of the thieves who are intimidating the city masses.

We sincerely tell our masses, particularly in our occupied territory, that there is forgery and deception. We tell them that what is taking place in the Palestinian arena serves our cause and aims at healing their pains, and not at selling them as Yasir 'Arafat did. Our people have every right to express concern for the future of the revolution and the PLO. They are entitled to be concerned over the intra-Palestinian fighting. However, we tell them that this is being exaggerated. Husayn is the tool protecting Yasir 'Arafat. And our people know who Husayn is. They also know who Mubarak and Numayri are. Who is raising a hue and cry? Is it France or West Europe? Why is this hue and cry being raised?

[Khuri] It has become clear that all the Arab causes's enemies are now taking 'Arafat's side and placing all their media in the service of 'Arafat's deviation.

[Al-'Amlah] But the truth will come out. Within this context we can understand why all these fleets are being massed off the Lebanese coast. These fleets aim to secure the objectives which the Lebanese war has failed to achieve. These fleets also aim to subjugate the Arab masses' move and impose the U.S. program on our Arab nation through the Lebanese key. They want to bring about a strong central government. They want to expel the revolution, but they have failed so far. They want to expel Syria and, eventually, to subjugate it. But again they have failed. Now, here is our battle, the battle of the Arab nation. How can we face those enemies who want to impose their plans on us? Through his scheme, Yasir 'Arafat is serving them. We say that 'Arafat will be toppled by Fatah cadres. A few days ago he adopted decisions expelling us from the Fatah movement. The decisions were adopted by his committee, the so-called Central Committee. We say that these decisions are very irresponsible and illegitimate. These decisions refute all his claims about concern for Fatah unity and the Palestinian revolution. Therefore, we say that the decisions of our cadres, of our movement's conference will reply to Yasir 'Arafat. This is an opportunity for all Fatah cadres, bases, and militants to become acquainted with the lies of those who claim concern about unity. This is an opportunity for Fatah cadres to join their brothers in order to end the suffering of our people and to employ this national effort and add it to the pan-Arab efforts to confront the nation's enemies.

[Khuri] I want to ask Comrade Abu Akram if he can talk about or explain how Yasir 'Arafat's return to Tripoli was simultaneous with the massing of these fleets off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts as well as flagrant and open threats against Syria and other repeated threats to launch an aggression against it.

['Awad] I believe that Yasir 'Arafat's return to Tripoli was not intended to resume the military activities or to put the revolution on its correct track so it may turn against the Zionist enemy. Our deportation from Lebanon came upon a decision by Yasir 'Arafat. Even before we left Beirut, precisely on the night of 24 August, I was summoned to the central operations room in my capacity as the official in charge of Palestinian affairs in Lebanon in order to decide the destination of the organization in case we left Lebanon. I asked Khalil al-Wazir in that session, which was attended by most of the Palestinian commanders and all the operations officers in the joint forces, whether any official in the Palestinian revolution would be asked where he wanted to go to if he had to leave Beirut. Certainly, I said, he would go to the closest area from which he could fight the Zionist enemy. I added that we would go to Al-Biqa', passing through Damascus. Khalil al-Wazir said: Then you will go to prision. I answered him: It is all one prison, but we will go to share with the brothers in Syria their decision of confrontation. We will return to Lebanon because, as an organization in a revolutionary movement, we must not stay far from our masses in the camps. We must not stay far from our Lebanese people at least, for they have given us everything despite all the bad practices of 'Arafat's cliques when he built up corrupted organs and brought in mercenaries from Bangladesh and other areas, because no one from our Arab nation was willing to join our organization any longer. This was due to the erroneous scheme and practices committed against our Lebanese people.

We told him: At least, we have to stay in Lebanon out of our loyalty to Lebanon and later to return to Lebanon if we really must leave Beirut. We must return to Al-Biqa' and Lebanon to stand by the side of our faithful Lebanese people until they are liberated from the Zionist aggression.

The authors of this scheme, those who wanted to force us to leave for Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, or Iraq, were pretty sure of their objective. Their objective was clear: the farther the militant is from the confrontation lines with the enemy, the less enthusiastic he becomes. We in the organization of Lebanon adopted the decision to stay with our cadres in Al-Biqa' or northern Lebanon or any other area. Their objective was different. They wanted to terminate the revolution and, accordingly, to distribute the revolutionaries in the diaspora.

Five months before the uprising, precisely on 1 December, they told us that those who did not want to leave and go abroad would not get their allowances. The militant prisoners in Ansar were not receiving their allowances. Our people remember that I caused a massacre — actually not a massacre, but a big problem in the financial department so I could cash allowances to the families of the prisoners in Ansar. Yasir 'Arafat withheld those allowances under the pretext of a lack of money. How could he give 10,000 dinars to one of the cadres leaving for Jordan or Baghdad while not giving anything to a militant in captivity in Ansar? The objective was clear: the termination of the revolution and keeping us away from the confrontation.

In fact this was intended as an execution of the revolution. However, our people and organization, which was founded on a revolutionary basis despite all the Central Committee practices led by Yasir 'Arafat at that time with the aim of liquidating the organization, its effectiveness, and role and building the mercenary and corrupt organs which are known to our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples [fragment as heard]

Yes, he came to Tripoli convinced only of one thing: how to fragment Arab and Palestinian efforts and how to subsequently create a crisis for fraternal Syria in Tripoli. He said this a few months ago at the PLO Central Council. All Central Council members recall that he said: My battle is not in Al-Biqa'; my battle is in the north. They will be my spectacle — he meant the Syrians — as they made me their spectacle in Beirut. Therefore, he was planning for a battle. The sabotage role played by some of his clique in Al-Yarmuk camp here was only intended to sow sedition against the brother Syrians so that his Western-imperialist media machine would say that Syria was attacking our people in the refugee camps. I say to our people and masses that when they realize the truth they will regret carrying Yasir 'Arafat's picture. They will regret putting his picture in their homes. This is because this man who wants to slaughter his people only to prove the point that Syria is slaughtering the Palestinian people does not deserve to be a leader or even a fighter or an ordinary Palestinian citizen.

The arrival of the fleets at this stage was in response to the escalation of the real national stand of this country — a stand of real confrontation of all the plans aimed at achieving settlements and defeatism. Thus, the fleets came to Lebanon to achieve what the Israeli onslaught failed to achieve. Israel came to implement the U.S. plan under U.S. protection. However, now, with the arrival of the real revolutionary uprising in the Palestinian revolution for a real confrontation by Syria, Libya, the progressive forces, and the Arab liberation movement, the United States brought its fleets to protect Israel. This is a new fact to be added to the facts that emerged following the battle of Beirut. In fact there was a Palestinian and Arab rennaissance and consequently a recession of the Zionist tide. Therefore, the fleets came to rescue Israel and implement the scheme assigned to it after Israel, Zionism, and the isolationists in Lebanon had failed to achieve it. This is where the role of the reactionary and rightest Palestinians and those who support them becomes obvious — a destructive role that distracts fraternal Syria and the Palestinian revolution from the real role of liberating Palestine and the Arab land.

[Khuri] Dear audience, I thank on your behalf the brothers in the leadership of the Fatah uprising for this rich dialogue which shed light on many of the ambiguous points in the current events in the Palestinian arena. I also pledge on your behalf that Syria, despite all obstacles and rancor, will remain above all wounds and the small people. I remind you of some of the historic statements by leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad that Syria is for Palestine as much as Palestine is for Palestine and that our commitment to defend the Palestinian cause is firm because the Palestinian issue is the Arab nation's central issue. No one has the right to relinquish a single right or aspect of this issue. I thank on your behalf Brothers Nimr Salih, Abu Salih, Samih Abu Kuwayk, Qadri, Staff Col Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, and Musa 'Awad, Abu Akram, members of the leadership in the Fatah revoltuionary uprising. Until we meet again in furture discussions in which we will review all developments in the events in the Palestinian arena, I thank you once again.

DFLP's 'Abd Rabbuh on Likely PNC Meeting

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[Text] Damascus, 10 Nov (KUNA) — Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the DFLP, has announced that Palestinian leading institutions will shortly be summoned to take decisive measures to prevent the renewal of fighting in northern Lebanon. He said that it was necessary to call for a meeting of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, to convene within the coming weeks.

'Abd Rabbuh was speaking in an interview with KUNA. He warned against the Arabization or internationalization of the crisis within the PLO as this would only lead to splitting it into Arab and international axes which have no connection with the national interests of the Palestinian people. He also warned against any renewal of the fighting in northern Lebanon, saying that such a renewal will create a wide rift and total devastation. "Our principal task now," he said, "is to work for the consolidation of the cease-fire in northern Lebanon and prevent the renewal of the fratricide. This demands a catagorical and declared commitment by all parties and particularly by the side which started the battle a week ago, by which I mean the dissenting movement within Fatah and its allies.

"Once the cease-fire holds well, then we will call for a meeting of the Executive Committee and the PNC as well as the representatives of the various Palestinian factions to take measures tro prevent any renewal of the fratricide in the north, because such a renewal would create a Palestinian division on a wide scale and total devastation in which there will be no victor or vanquished."

With regard to calling for a meeting of the PNC in these conditions, 'Abd Rabbuh said: "We have no objection at all to the convocation of the PNC if the Palestinian leading institutions fail to perform their role in protecting the PLO and Palestinian legality and stop the current self-destruction. What has taken place in the north has not only destroyed the camps and caused hundreds of deaths and injuries but has also created a deep rift which we all must work to prevent from becoming a political division. Hence it is essential for the Palestinian leaderships to meet provided that their meeting takes place in a calm atmosphere unthreatened by fratricide or the threat of fratricide."

He affirmed that the situation on the Palestine arena demands now more than at any time in the past the holding of a meeting of the PNC within the next few months in its capacity as the highest legitimate Palestinian body to save Palestinian action from the catastrohe that is threatening it. He added that no side can claim that it can by itself protect the right of the Palestinian national movement as a whole to self-determination. No side can by the force of steel and fire impose its will on the various trends within the Palestine revolution.

'Abd Rabbuh warned against the dangers inherent in any Arabization or internationalization of the current situation saying that "the danger could lead to the splitting of the PLO into Arab and international axes which has no connection with the national interest of the Palestinian people. For this reason, instead of Arabizing or internationalizing the stiuation, Palestinian institutions, including the PNC, should shoulder their responsibilities."

With regard to the demands made by some factions for a change in the Palestinian leadership and for the resignation of Yasir 'Arafat, 'Abd Rabbuh said: "I do not agree to any change in the PLO leadership through other than its legitimate institutions or any change against the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people. We have no other sanctities to hold to except the unity of the PLO, its independence, national political line, and the legitimacy of its institutions. Any talk of change should take place within this framework and on this basis. We will vehemently oppose any tendencies that go beyond this framework because they will evidently lead to divison and devastation. Anyone who wants to bring about a change should come to the legitimate institutions and put forward any ideas he has."

He added: "We in the DFLP have defined jointly with the PFLP the bases and elements of the change through a program of unity and reform which would safeguard the unity and political line of the PLO and bring about any serious changes needed within the framework of a general development of the PLO and its role of leading the Palestinian people. The fratricidal events of last week have shown that the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian masses inside and outside alike support our line and policy and reject the fratricide and demand unity."

In conclusion, 'Abd Rabbuh expressed his confidence in the ability of the PLO to prevent any split and to protect the unity of the revolution and the PLO.

GULF AFFAIRS

UAE, Bahrain, Qatar To Establish Ties With USSR

LD101121 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 10 November — Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* today says that three Arab states in the Gulf will establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and a number of Eastern bloc states. The paper says in a report from Doha attributed to undisclosed sources that the three countries are the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain. It added that the leaders of the GCC States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, and the Sultanate of Oman, debated the question of relations between the socialist states and the GCC states during the summit which they concluded yesterday in Doha. The paper quoted its sources as saying that the Gulf leaders approved a solution which decided that the UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar should establish relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist states now that socialist cooperation with these states has increased.

On the other hand, informed Gulf sources have told KUNA that the idea of establishing relations is still under discussion and that no date had been set for establishing relations.

GCC To Push for Foreign Ministers Meeting

GF121004 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Nov (QNA) — It was reported here today that intensive contacts will be held by the GCC countries during the next 2 days to convene an Arab foreign Ministers conference in Tunis no later than early next week to agree on a date for the next Arab summit conference in Riyadh and to discuss means of ending Arab differences. Citing reliable Gulf sources, the Kuwait newspaper *AL-ANBA'* said the Palestinian issue will be one of the issues the Arab foreign ministers will discuss because it is an issue on which Arab understanding is needed to give the Palestinians a way to resolve their differences through means which they deem appropriate.

The sources said the contacts which the GCC countries will hold are complementary to the contacts held last week during the GCC Supreme Council meeting in Doha which, according to these sources, had positive results.

It is worth noting that Saudi Arabia recently called for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to agree on a date for the next Arab summit conference.

GCC Attempt To Pressure Syria Denied

LD131500 Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 13 (KUNA) — Kuwait Sunday refuted reports that the Gulf Cooperation Council was holding urgent consultations with some Arab states to persuade Syria to adhere to the ceasefire the GCC worked out in North Lebanon. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said Kuwait had no knowledge of such reports which Radio Cairo broadcast early today. The only committee assigned to secure a ceasefire and a cessation of inter-Fatah hostilities in North Lebanon was the one that visited Damascus last week while the GCC was meeting "nor do I think this is possible without the knowledge of Kuwait," Husayn said.

Radio Cairo said the GCC was holding urgent consultations with a number of Arab capitals to form a joint committee with some Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Tunisia to persuade Syria to abide by the ceasefire agreement with the PLO forces in Tripoli.

Husayn told KUNA Algeria, Tunisia and a representative of the Arab League were participant in the committee that included the Kuwait deputy premier, foreign and information minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and the Qatari minister of state for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf al-Thani. The non-attendance of Algeria, Tunsiia and the Arab League representative at the Damascus talks was because of the time factor, Husayn said.

Minister Views GCC Security Coordination

LD131304 Kuwait KUNA in English 1122 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 13 (KUNA) — Kuwait's interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah was quoted as saying Sunday that security cooperation between member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council is increasing. Shaykh Nawwaf who began Saturday a visit to Saudi Arabia in the course of a tour of a number of GCC states told *'UKAZ* newspaper that there is complete coordination and cooperation among the security establishments of the council's member states.

In addition to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the GCC groups the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Kuwaiti minister said the Security Committee had laid down the scientific structure for security action at the GCC countries and worked out the right basis for technical and manpower development of the GCC security apparatus. Shaykh Nawwaf, according to the paper, also said the security plan which has been concluded by the Arab Gulf states would be implemented shortly in a way that ensure security cooperation and coordination among member states.

BAHRAIN

Minister Denies Report on Relations with USSR

GF110739 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Ash-Shariqah, 11 Nov (WAM) — Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad has denied the report on the possible establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Gulf Arab states such as Bahrain, the UAE, and Qatar. This issue was not discussed during the GCC meetings which ended in Doha the day before yesterday, Al-Mu'ayyad said. In a telephone interview with the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* published today, the Bahraini minister asserted the GCC summit's success and described its resolutions as positive and an indication of the seriousness of joint Gulf action and of the leaders concern for taking steady steps toward unity among the region's countries and peoples.

Prime Minister Returns From Europe Trip

GF111920 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Manama, 11 Nov (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah returned to his country today after an official visit to Tunisia followed by a private visit to Europe. Foremost among those who received him upon his return were Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain Defense Force, in addition to a number of senior Bahraini officials.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Contacts Yasir 'Arafat

LD121738 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Shaykh Sabah as-Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of information, has announced that he contacted PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, by telephone to consolidate the agreed cease-fire position and to continue following what is happening there. Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad said that this contact adds to the efforts aimed at ending the dispute among Palestinian brothers. he added that these contacts will continue, and he has commissioned Kuwaiti Ambassador to Damascus 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Kandari to continue contacts with the PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum in order to follow up developments as soon as they happen.

Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad expressed hope that the parties concerned will be able to resort to reason, wisdom, and logic and preserve the blood of Palestinian brothers. He said that the matter is entirely in the hands of the Palestinians, and its fulfillment depends on the sincerity of their wish to preserve blood. Shaykh as-Sabah al-Ahmad also expressed hope that violations of the cease-fire will not affect efforts to end the dispute.

AL-QABAS Assails Syrian Position on PLO

GF101600 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Nov 83 p 1

[Editorial: "How the Umayyad Capital Has Changed!"]

[Text] The capital of the Umayyad [Damascus] has changed. How ithas changed! This capital never severed its ties with the people. Today it severs its relations with its brothers, relatives, neighbors, and even its twin brother!

The negative Syrian position — as witnessed yesterday — is unjustifiable and incomprehensible. The GCC leaders found out that the escalating bloody confrontation in northernLebanon exceeded all limits. Thus the Gulf summit decided to play a role to stop the shedding of Palestinian blood where this shedding had not stopped during past decades, but the Gulf efforts were shunned and repulsed.

Through this negative position, Damascus unveiled what it tried to formally conceal. Its claims that the massacre in the camps of northern Lebanon is merely Palestinian-Palestinian fighting have collapsed to the point that Damascus itself did not believe them! Now Damascus openly informs the Gulf delegation that it will not stop the massacres of the northern camps and not allow any side to intervene before attaining the planned goals.

Do they want 'Arafat's head? Good. But in what way are the heads of the Palestinian people involved? Why does the massacre continue until 'Arafat's head falls, even if this is preceeded by the fall of the heads of every man, woman, and child in the afflicted northern camps?

It seems that what 'Arafat had in mind has been demonstrated and confirmed by Damascus. It could be that 'Arafat went to the northern camps to prove that the "internal" Fatah crisis is not an internal crisis but merely a glove that Damascus wears in order to be fully and coercively in control of the Palestinian card before it can play it at the negotiation table which discusses the Middle East issue. 'Arafat went there [to the Palestinian camps] to make the Palestinian people in the first place and the world see who set the seige, who launched the rockets, who chased them to kill them, and who chased them to strip them of the legitimacy of the revolution. Yesterday Damascus achieved for 'Arafat what he has sought from the Gulf delegation!

Libya's Rajab Comments on Fatah Split

LD121621 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Nov (KUNA) — Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, general secretary of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Kuwait this evening. The delegation was welcomed on arrival by Minister of Justice and Legal Administrative Affairs Shaykh Salman ad-Duyyij as-Sabah and by ('Abd al-Karim Bu Ghith) from the department of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Az-Zarruk told KUNA that he carried a message from the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his highness the amir of Kuwait. With regard to Libya's stand on the split within the Palestinian Fatah movement, Az-Zarruq said "Libya sponsored everything that was in the interest of the Palestinian people in the first place. The split was a natural thing and it must be in the interest of the Palestinian people. Libya is for changes and supports changes as against sticking to leaderships. The last word will be with the Palestinian people themselves."

Az-Zarruq lauded Kuwait's efforts in [word indistinct] the Arab issues and wished it all progress.

Received by Amir

LD131107 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] His highness the amir received at 10 a.m. today the

Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah secretary of general people's congress, Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Justice and Legal and Administrative Affairs Shaykh Salman ad-Duyyij as-Salman and the Libyan ambassador to Kuwait.

PDRY

Chairman Receives Iranian President's Message

GF131347 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received at his office this morning Brother Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, who delivered to him a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on bilateral relations and means of strengthening and developing them. During the meeting a number of issues of mutual concern were discussed.

Chairman Congratulates YAR Prime Minister

GF130916 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Cable from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani — no date given]

[Text] On the occasion of your appointment as prime minister in the northern part of the homeland, it pleases me to extend to you and the brother ministers the warmest fraternal congratulations, wishing you success and persistence in your task and in that which serves our Yemeni people.

I would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm that we in the southern part of the homeland will (?resume) strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the governments of the two parts, in light of the unity agreements and meetings, in that which serves our Yemeni people's endeavors and goals on the way to restoring the homeland's unity of land and people on a (?peaceful) and democratic basis and in a way that increases the contribution of the two parts of Yemen in serving the just issues for which our Arab peoples are struggling.

Czechoslovak Party Official Arrives in Aden

GF131826 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Alois Indra, member of the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly, arrived in Aden this evening heading a high-ranking delegation on a visit of several days to the PDRY at the invitation of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. On arrival he and the delegation accompanying him were received by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; a number of the brother members of the YSP Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, and the Supreme People's Council; and the Czechoslavak ambassador in Aden, Comrade Ivan Voles, and embassy staff.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

GF130512 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] According to IRNA, Mr Sheykholeslam, the political deputy of the Foreign Ministry, has arrived in Aden for a visit to South Yemen. Mr Sheykholeslam is carrying a message from President Khamene'i for 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY.

QATAR

Oil Minister Receives Iranian Delegation

GF131151 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and oil, received Iranian DeputyEnergy Minister 'Abbas Honardust and the delegation accompanying him at his office today. The meeting was attended on the Iranian side by Iranian Ambassador in Kuwait Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani and Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Qatar Mohammad Taqi Mashayekh and on the Qatari side by 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Atiyah, director of public relations at the Finance and Oil Ministry.

In a statement to QNA, 'Abbas said that he delivered to Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani a written message from Iranian Energy Minister Mohammed Gharazi. The Iranian energy minister assistant added that many matters concerning the forthcoming meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Council were discussed. He said that these discussions were good. He said that these negotiations should continue for the benefit of OPEC unity. Regarding reports saying that Iran wants to increase its production quota, 'Abbas said: We have to help each other now more than any time before.

The Iranian official left Doha after the meeting. He was seen off by Shaykh Rashid ibn 'Uwaydah Al Thani, deputy director general of the Qatari General Corporation for Oil; Ambassador Ahmad Jasim al-Mula, director of protocol administration at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Doha.

Payment To Stop Ash-Shuf Fighting Denied

LD141022 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Nov (SPA) — An official information source commented on a report published in *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL* attributed to a party claiming that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had paid out $4 billion to stop the fighting in

Ash-Shuf. The source stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had previously scoffed at a similar report not long ago and had stressed, through an official source, that its relations with sisterly Syria were based on firm pillars of mutual respect and constructive cooperation within the Arab community for all that would realize common good. The source added: Therefore, it has been deemed necessary to point out once again that what was reported by this paper on the subject has no relation to the truth.

Interior Minister Meets Kuwaiti Counterpart

LD121328 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Saudi-Kuwaiti talks began this afternoon under the chairmanship of the Saudi minister of the interior, Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, who arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

Prince Nayif stated that the meeting was cordial and fraternal and that the views of the two sides coincided on matters of security affecting our Gulf region. On his part, the Kuwaiti minister of the interior expressed pleasure at meeting with Prince Nayif and said that discussions during the meeting covered matters concerning the security of the Kingdom and Kuwait, in particular, and the Gulf region in general. He described the results of the meeting as good and satisfactory and characterized by agreement.

UAE

First PDRY Ambassador Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF120957 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Nov (WAKH) — Ahmad 'Awad Haydar, the first PDRY ambassador to the UAE, arrived here today. The UAE earlier welcomed the nomination of 'Ahmad 'Awad as PDRY ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

YAR

New Council of Ministers Named

GF121830 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text of presidential decree No 51/1983]

[Excerpt] The president of the republic has decreed the following:

Article: 1. The new Cabinet is formed as follows:

Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Yahya Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister of domestic affairs;

Engineer 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of public works;

Engineer Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd, minister of development and head of the central organ of planning;

Brother Ahmad Muhammad Ash-Shijni, minister of state for Cabinet affairs;

Judge 'Ali ibn 'Ali as-Samman, minister of awqaf and guidance;

Brother Ahmad Qa'id Barakat, minister of economy and industry;

Brother Ahmad Salih ar-Ru'ayni, minister of social affairs and labor;

Dr Ahmad 'Ali al-Hamdani, minister of agriculture and fisheries;

Brother Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, minister of civil service and administrative reform;

Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik al-Asbahi, minister of foreign affairs;

Engineer Ahmad Muhammad al-'Anisi, minister of communications and land and air transport;

Lieutenant Colonel Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, minister of the interior;

Brother Ahmad Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture;

Brother Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of municipalities and housing;

Brother Ahmad Khadim al-Wajih, minister of finance;

Dr Muhammad Yahya Al-'Azi, minister of supply and trade;

Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Bahr, minister of state and chairman of the petroleum and mineral resources corporation;

Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, minister of health;

Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Jayfi, minister of local government;

Brother Muhammad Hasan Sabra, minister of electricity, water, and sewage;

Brother 'Abdallah Nasir ad-Darafi, minister of state and secretary general of the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports;

Dr 'Abd al-Wahid 'Aziz az-Zindani, minister of education;

Judge Ahmad al-Jubi, minister of justice.

Article 2: This decree is enacted as of the date of its issuance and is to be published in the official gazette.

Issued in the presidential palace in San'a' on 12 November 1983.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General Peoples Congress

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the standing committee.

Former Prime Minister Heads Reconstruction Council

GF121826 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text of presidential decree No 8/1983]

[Excerpt] The president of the republic has decreed the following:

Article 1: Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani is appointed chairman of the supreme council for the reconstruction of areas hit by earthquakes.

Article 2: This decree is enacted as the date of its issuance and is to be published in the official gazette.

Issued in the presidential palace in San'a' on 12 November 1983.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress

'Ali, Kimche Comment After Talks 10 November

NC101702 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon received Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, pending problems, and the situation in Lebanon.

Kimche told journalists that both sides have agreed to exert maximum efforts to improve relations. He said: We have succeeded in creating an atmosphere and drawing up a framework that will enable a resumption of the dialogue on several problems, including the Tabah issue, the Palestinian Canada camp in Rafah and tourist and trade issues. He pointed out that they also discussed the issue of the Egyptian ambassador's return to Tel Aviv. He further said that regarding the resumption of the autonomy talks, it depends upon Egypt which believes in the need of having Jordan participate in the talks. He said that agreement has been reached to send an Egyptian envoy to Israel to continue the dialogue, because we have not reached results, but have drawn up a framework for future dialogue. On Lebanon, Kimche said: We do not want to stay in southern Lebanon and our stay there is due to security reasons. If security reasons are solved, we will withdraw now. He said that the general mobilization in Israel was cancelled this morning.

MENA has learned that during his meeting with Kimche, 'Ali stressed the need to resume the dialogue over Tabah in accordance with the agreement that both countries signed in April 1981 on solving this problem. He also stressed the need to prepare the atmosphere for the participation of Jordan and the Palestinians in the future talks. Regarding the return of the Egyptian ambassador, 'Ali asserted Egypt's stand on this issue — that there must first be a specific and guaranteed timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. It has been learned that the Dayr as-Sultan in Jerusalem was among the topics raised between the two sides, as well as the settlements and the confidence-building measures in the West Bank and the Gaza sector.

Kimche Leaves 10 Nov

NC102113 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA) — David Kimche, secretary general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, left Cairo tonight for Israel after a 2-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Samih Darwish and Ambassador Taha al-Firnuwani of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's Israeli Department.

Minister on Tourist Ties With Israel

PM101234 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 4 Nov 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Tourism Minister Says: We Cannot Force Egyptians To Visit Israel"]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to *AL-JAZIRAH*'s correspondent in Cairo, Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Tawfiq 'Abduh Isma'il said the following: The official tourist relations between Egypt and Israel are still continuing but since June 1982 no Egyptian has applied for an entry visa to Israel. The reason is Israel's aggressive policy in Lebanon.

The Egyptian minister denied that the Egyptian authorities have prevented any Egyptian from going to Israel but he added that the Egyptian authorities cannot force the Egyptian people to visit Israel just to prove that the normalization in the tourist field is proceeding according to Israel's wishes.

Abu Ghazalah Denies Plan To Intervene in Gulf

PM101650 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 83 p 1

[*ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Cairo Bureau report: "Abu Ghazalah Denies Likelihood of Egyptian Military Intervention in Gulf"]

[Text] Cairo — In an exclusive statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah denied reports that Egypt might intervene militarily in the Gulf region in certain circumstances in coordination with Western forces. Marshal Abu Ghazalah described these reports as untrue and quite unfounded.

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Meets Mubarak 11 Nov

NC111629 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1624 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, following his arrival in Cairo from Belgrade. The meeting was attended by Samir An-Najm, Iraqi charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Ramadan on Arab Affairs

NC111828 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, following a 1 and 1/2 hour meeting with President Husni Mubarak, has said that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, particularly following the latest battles in the northern sector. He said President Mubarak wanted to reassure himself about the results of these battles and about the Iraqi forces' situation in these battles. Ramadan said: I have affirmed to President Mubarak the solid situation along the front, particularly in the northern sector, where these successful battles will definitely break the Iranian enemy's back.

Ramadan said the discussions also dealt with the situation in the Arab region and in Lebanon, and with the continuing consultations between Egypt and Iraq to coordinate their moves to serve the Arab nation and to help it overcome the difficult ordeal it is passing through. Ramadan said bilateral relations are proceeding and progressing on the right and sound path. Asked whether he conveyed to President Mubarak certain Iraqi demands, Ramadan said: No, I visited Romania and Bulgaria, and this meeting took place because we are passing through Cairo. I am carrying greetings from President Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn, as well as the repeated emphasis that Arab Egypt's stand supports Iraq in its war and is ready for anything it can do to strengthen the Iraqis. Asked about Iraq's stand on the Palestinian massacre now taking place in Tripoli, Ramadan said the Iraqi stand is against this massacre, against interference in Palestinian affairs, and against any presence in Lebanon, primarily the Israeli presence, but including any foreign or even Arab presence. I believe the problem lies in foreign interference in Lebanese affairs. The current Syrian siege of Tripoli to strike at the PLO is a serious conspiracy that serves only Israel.

Asked about Iraq's assessment of the mediation efforts between Iraq and Iran to end the Gulf war, Ramadan said the efforts are not effective and have, so far, not risen to the required level.

Departs Cairo After Stopover

NC111756 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, left Cairo this evening for Baghdad after spending 3 hours in Cairo, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. He was seen off at the airport by Presidential Secretary Sharif Majdi.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Departs for Italy, Rabat

NC121138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Nov (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister this morning left Cairo for Rabat on a 2-day visit to Morocco. Before departing Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that he will hand a message to King Hassan II from President Husni Mubarak. He said that his visit is in response to a recent visit made by Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta [to Egypt]. His visit is aimed at resuming the dialogue started during President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's meeting with King Hassan II in New York.

'Ali is expected to make a 1-day visit to Italy for talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on the Middle East situation, particularly the situation in Lebanon, in light of the latter's recent visit to Syria.

The delegation accompanying 'Ali on this tour includes Ambassador 'Abd al-Mun'im Ghunaym, the director of the Arab League Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and Ministers Plenipotentiary Ahmad Abu al-Mughayt and Muhammad al-Fawwal.

'Ali Interviewed on Mideast

JN131850 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1718 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stopped over in Paris today. He is due to leave the French capital for Morocco tonight. 'Ali met in Paris with a number of French officials. Our colleague Huda Tawfiq met with 'Ali and asked him several questions on current developments, such as his visit to Morocco, the Arab-Egyptian contacts in general, Egypt's position on the inter-Palestinian struggle, and Egyptian-French relations. At the beginning of the interview, 'Ali answers a question on the reasons for his visit to Morocco, which will begin today.

[Begin recording] This visit is in return for Moroccan Foreign Minister Boucetta's visit to Egypt a year ago. It is also within the framework of strengthening bilateral Arab relations in accordance with what was agreed on between President Mubarak and His Majesty King Hassan II when they met in New York during this year's UN General Assembly session.

[Huda Tawfiq] You have made several Arab contacts. You visited Iraq, Jordan, and Sudan. Now you will be visiting Morocco. You will also make other visits to Arab countries. Are Egyptian-Arab relations accelerating?

['Ali] The intensive contacts at this particular time are necessitated by the current Arab issues, the situation in the region, and the deterioration of the relations in Lebanon among various parties. This necessitated intensive moves and contacts to hold consultations concerning this stand and seek possible means of enhancing Arab efforts to this effect.

[Tawfiq] Is there joint Arab cooperation to save the PLO or 'Arafat?

['Ali] In fact, the issue of the PLO and the preservation of 'Arafat and PLO legitimacy was on top of the agenda during talks with those Arab countries with whom contacts have been made.

[Tawfiq] Will these issues also figure in Your Excellency's talks in Morocco?

['Ali] They must. This issue will be on top of the agenda because 'Arafat's absence will cast very dark shadows over the PLO's efficiency and legitimacy. The least that can be said in this regard is that 'Arafat's absence from the PLO scene will make the Palestinian cause lose very valuable time. To lose this time is very detrimental to the Palestinian cause.

[Tawfiq] There has been an escalation of the events in Lebanon and the region. What are the possibilities of a military action?

['Ali] The current military escalation is provoking the various sides. That this will culminate in a military action is not ruled out. If a military action takes place, the region will witness acts of violence and a solution will become harder to achieve. The military action, naturally, delays the political action. We are in dire need of moving politically at this stage. The military action will harm everyone.

[Tawfiq] Let us speak about Egyptian-Arab contacts. Are there Syrian-Egyptian contacts?

['Ali] It is absolutely not possible to say that there is direct Egyptian-Syrian contact. However, there was indirect contact at one time.

[Tawfiq] At this serious stage, are there any contacts to contain the situation in Lebanon?

['Ali] I do not think that there are contacts. The Arab brothers are exerting their utmost efforts with Syria to stop the fighting between the PLO on the one hand, and the anti-'Arafat PLO factions that are supported by other Arab states on the other.

[Tawfiq] What about the possibility of an Arab summit?

['Ali] I believe that Saudi Arabia has announced the postponement of the Arab summit because the current circumstances are not conducive to holding such a conference.

[Tawfiq] While in Paris, you held contacts with the French External Relations Ministry. How far has Egyptian-French cooperation gone with regard to the Lebanese issue?

['Ali] Coordination and consultations between France and Egypt are continuing with regard to Middle East issues. Effecitive 1 January, France will be chairman of the EEC. Egypt and France adopted the French-Egyptian project on the Palestinian issue at the UN Security Council. Consultations with France are continuing not only concerning the Palestinian and Lebanese issues, but also concerning Chad. We know that France has forces in Chad that are facing the Libyan forces. [end recording]

Muhyi ad-Din Returns From Austria 12 Nov

NC122128 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this evening arrived in Cairo from Vienna at the conclusion of 4-day visit to Austria. During the visit, Dr Muhyi ad-Din conducted important talks dealing with the current situation in the Middle East and the means to consolidate bilateral economic relations.

Briefs Mubarak on Visit

NC131342 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] This afternoon President Husni Mubarak received Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din who stated after the meeting that he briefed the president on the results of the Egyptian delegation's visit to Austria. He said the talks dealt with the Middle East problem, the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese problem, and the Iraqi-Iranian war. The talks also dealt with industrial, agricultural, and economic issues and the projects which have been implemented in Egypt. The discussions also dealt with the new projects which will be implemented in Egypt and which are being studied by specialized committees. He added that the views were identical regarding the Middle East problem. He said Austria is following the same line which was followed by former Austrian Chancellor Kreisky. The views were also identical on international problems, particularly in areas of tension in the world.

The prime minister added that President Mubarak has invited the Austrian chancellor to visit Egypt. President Mubarak has also invited former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The two have accepted the invitation. The prime minister added that Kamal Hasan 'Ali's visit to Morocco is taking place at the invitation of King Hassan II and in return for the Moroccan foreign minister's visit to Egypt, especially after the summit meeting which took place between President Mubarak and King Hassan II in New York.

Mubarak Receives Opposition Leader Shukri

NC131028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received at the Al-'Urubah Palace this morning Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party. Following the 1-hour meeting, Shukri said the meeting was within the context of the president's desire to meet with the opposition leaders. He added: President Mubarak briefed me on foreign and domestic policy. I consider such meetings very useful for the opposition parties because they fully put them into the picture of both the domestic and foreign situation. I hope these meeting will be held regularly.

Shukri said the main topics discussed today were the Arab situation in general and the circumstances through which the Palestinian issue is passing. In his statement, Shukri said: The Labor Party spells out its opinion of the problems facing the citizens through the discussions held by the People's Assembly or through the proposals it publicly submits to its congresses.

Syria Reportedly Closes Egyptian Party Office

NC101634 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] London, 10 Nov (MENA) — The London-based Arabic magazine *AL-MAJALLAH* reports that the Syrian authorities have closed the Egyptian NPUG [office] in Damascus following a statement in which the party expressed support for PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat. The magazine says in its 12 November issue that the Syrian authorities have deported Fu'ad at-Tuhami, director of the NPUG office in Damascus, from Syria.

Palestinians, Syrians in Cairo Cable Mubarak

NC101330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received the following cable from those staging a sit-in at the PLO office in Cairo:

In the name of the Palestinian Arab people in the Arab Republic of Egypt, who are represented by members of the Palestinian unions staging a sit-in at the PLO office in Cairo, we convey to Your Excellency our gratitude and appreciation for your noble stand and brave statements condemning the plot against brother Yasir 'Arafat, the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution, that is concocted to liquidate the Palestinian question. May God protect and safeguard you and guide your steps.

His excellency the president has also received a cable from Jasim 'Alwan, Khalid Hakam, and Yusuf Muzahim on behalf of the office of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria in

Cairo. They expressed their deep appreciation over the passages in his excellency's speech to the People's Assembly on 6 November which emphasize Egypt's leading and historical role in the life of the Arab nation, its readiness to assume its great responsibilities toward its Arabism particularly in these critical days through which the Arab homeland is passing, the bloody events taking place in Lebanon, and the Iraqi-Iranian war, as well as the treason to which the Palestinian question is being exposed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Moscow's Stand on 'Arafat

NC130742 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 13 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Moscow and the Tripoli fighting," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* explains that Moscow's reproach of the Damascus government for its stand toward Yasir 'Arafat and his legitimate leadership of the PLO is a game in which Soviet political experts are well versed. These experts know that any decision by the Kremlin is always subject to frequent studies to ensure the Soviet Union's interest.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Moscow sees in 'Arafat a moderate leader who does not agree with its policy. Hence, it has planned to get rid of him or dismiss him to maintain its policy in the area. The Soviet Union declared this stand weeks after the Tripoli war between 'Arafat supporters and Damascus-backed and Moscow-backed elements, realizing that 'Arafat has escaped from the plot to liquidate it. Hence, it has hastened to ask Khaddam to stop the fighting among the Palestinians and restore unity among the resistance factions. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* explains that this is a clear indication that Moscow is trying to save 'Arafat's life and not let him face humiliation by the dissidents after he escaped from the trap that had been set for him.

Ambassador Atherton Leaves Cairo 12 Nov

NC120827 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 12 Nov (MENA) — U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Alfred Atherton left Cairo this morning at the end of his term of duty here. He was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Jamal Shu'ayr and Director of Protocol Sami Thabit.

Shinudah III Ordains First Priests Since Banishment

NC122035 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 12 (AFP) — The head of the Coptic Christian church, Shinudah III, has ordained two priests for the first time since his banishment to a desert monastery more than two years ago by the late President Anwar as-Sadat, a reliable source said here today. The ordination took place last Sunday in the Anba [name indistinct] monastery on the Alexandria highway where Shinudah III was banished in September 1981 after President as-Sadat charged him with "damaging national unity, inciting religious hatred, and committing provocative acts against the regime."

The new priests will begin their ministries in old Cairo within 40 days of their ordination, according to Coptic traditions. President Husni Mubarak recently said that Shinudah III will eventually be allowed to resume his functions but did not give a date. The Coptic leader, meanwhile, is forbidden to leave his desert exile and directly address his believers.

1947-Born Conscripts Called Up for Reserve Duty

JN101401 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Communique No 53 for 1983 issued by the Directorate of Mobilization and Statistics at the Ministry of Defense:

1. According to Clause (c) of Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 15 of the 1969 amended Military Service Law No 65, it has been decided to call up for reserve service those conscripts born in 1947, volunteers, those who paid to be excused from service, those who did not respond to conscription, and those whose excuses were not accepted. This call includes the discharged officers, NCO's, policemen, traffic police, security men, border guards, those in the nationality department, and those in the general intelligence service.

2. Those who fall within this category and are present in the country must check at their recruitment centers within a 5-day period beginning on 20 November 1983 and ending at the close of business on 24 November 1983. Regarding those abroad, they must check at our missions within a 15-day period from the above date in order to confirm their response to the call.

3. This announcement is considered an official notification to the state's official and semiofficial departments and all socialist, private, and mixed sectors in order that they might notify their employees to adhere to this announcement.

[Signed] Brigadier, acting director of mobilization and statistics.

Armed Force General Command Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,275

JN101728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,275 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The victorious forces of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah continued their actions in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of charlatanism, rancor, and aggression that is ruling in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units dealt concentrated and effective blows to enemy positions and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. A number of troops were killed or wounded. Two occupied infantry positions and one hardware stockpile were destroyed.

2. Two were killed east of Basra.

3. One observation post and one medium-range machinegun were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

4. One vehicle was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. The suspect Iranian regime shelled Sayyid Sadiq and Khurmal and their suburbs with artillery yesterday evening, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 November 1983

Communique No 1,276

JN111719 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,276 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The brave Iraqis — owners of rights and principles — are continuing their valiant defense of their cherished homeland and great revolution against the expansionist Khomeyniite ambitions. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, inflicting losses in both men and equipment. It has been confirmed that the losses which the defeated enemy forces sustained during the recent battles in the Panjwin area and which were counted opposite one of our heroic formations amounted to 298 killed and a large number of wounded, in addition to the losses mentioned in our previous communiques.

2. Today our bold helicopter gunships launched effective attacks on enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct hits and inflicting losses in personnel, vehicles, and various types of equipment. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units opened fire on several enemy positions and medium machinegun emplacements east of Basra, killing 12 and destroying 1 infantry position, 3 medium machinegun emplacements, and 1 hardware stockpile.

4. One infantry position and one medium machinegun were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. One enemy machinegun was destroyed and those manning it were killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

6. Today the criminal Khomeyniites shelled Qurahtu and Khurmal and their environs with artillery. The savage enemy shelling demolished three houses in Qurahtu and damaged some civilian establishments in Khurmal.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 November 1983

Communique No 1,277

JN121732 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,277 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great capability and efficency our valiant Armed Forces pursue their activities in the operational theaters against the forces of the unjust Khomeyniite enemy. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force belonging to our forward units carried out a daring raid against enemy positions in the area opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our force clashed with the enemy, pounded it with all types of weapons, killing and wounding many enemy elements. In other areas in the same sector, our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations with all types of weapons, killing 14, wounding many, and destroying two personnel and weapons positions.

2. Our daring helicopters today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our units pounded it with their weapons, killing three and destroying one vehicle, one hardware stockpile, and three infantry positions.

4. One infantry position was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. The evil clique ruling in Tehran yesterday evening and today shelled Sayyid Sadiq, Khurmal, and their suburbs, damaging several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 November 1983

Communique No 1,278

JN131725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,278 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their triumphant activities in the various sectors of the front against the spiteful Khomeyniite clique's forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forces in the northern sector of the front, killing 15 and wounding others. Our forces destroyed one vehicle, two infantry positions, and one hardware stockpile.

2. Our capable helicopter gunships today carried effective raids against enemy positions and vehicle assembly points, scoring direct hits and inflicting losses in men and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to base.

3. One was killed, and one vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed in the central sector of the front.

4. Two were killed in the area east of Basra.

5. Using artillery, the suspect Iranian regime today shelled Mandali and its environs, damaging a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 November 1983

Labor Minister Praises GCC Call for End to War

GF101012 Doha QNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Nov (QNA) — Mr Bakr Muhammad Rasul, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, who is currently visiting the UAE, has praised the call issued in the final statement of the fourth session of the GCC Supreme Council to halt all military operations in the Gulf and the appeal to Iran to accept the latest UN Security Council resolution to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. He also praised the readiness of the GCC states to resume their sincere mediation efforts to bring about an end to this war.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi, the Iraqi minister said: We appreciate the stand of the GCC leaders and their sincere efforts in this regard as well as their positive stand for action to bring about an end to the war. He added that the stand of the GCC states is an expression of the genuine Arab stands that support the Arab Iraqi people in defending their land and national sovereignty.

The Iraqi minister added: "Now, and as we enter the fourth year of this battle, we renew our call to resolve the conflict through peaceful means and we reaffirm our acceptance of the recent UN Security Council resolution and acceptance of all the peace initiatives, whether they come from the Islamic Conference organization, the nonaligned countries, or the United Nations. However, in the meantime, Iran continues to reject all peace mediation efforts." He then stressed that Iraq will defend every single foot of its land and will reply to all aggression whatever the source.

Mr Bakr Muhammad Rasul stressed that Iraq will not stand helpless before the closing of the Strait of Hormuz or before aggression against any of the Arab countries in the region. He indicated it is possible that Iran may carry out its threat to close the strait.

And about the possibility that Iraq may use the Super Etendard planes in its war against Iran, he said that Iraq will use all available means in order to impose a just peace in the region and deter aggression against its territories and that it will not give up even a single foot of them nor will it concede its legitimate rights and national sovereignty.

Press Statement on Ramadan's Visit to Bulgaria

JN101912 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Joint press statement on the visit of Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to Bulgaria 9-10 November 1983, issued in Sofia on 10 November 1983]

[Text] At the invitation of Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, paid a cordial and official visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria 9-10 November 1983. During his visit, Ramadan was received by Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. He conveyed to him Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's warm and sincere greetings and best wishes for good health and happiness. He also conveyed Saddam's sincere wishes to the friendly Bulgarian people for progress and welfare. Zhivkov asked Ramadan to convey his warm greetings and wishes for good health and happiness to President Saddam Husayn and progress and prosperity for the friendly Iraqi people.

The official talks between Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship, and mutual understanding. The two sides noted with satisfaction the successful developments recorded by Iraq and Bulgaria in various fields, particularly in the economic fields, as established by the agreement reached in 1980 by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

During the visit, the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation held its 15th session. Ramadan and Filipov discussed the means of developing and promoting cooperation between the two countries in these fields. The committee achieved positive results in the various fields.

A protocol was signed on expanding economic and technical cooperation as well as trade between Iraq and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the official visit paid by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to the People's Republic of Bulgaria. They expressed conviction that these results will contribute to developing the relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the two sides in all fields in a manner that benefits peace, security, and progress throughout the world.

Ramadan expressed deep gratitude for the warm reception he and his delegation were accorded in Bulgaria. He invited Grisha Filipov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, to visit Iraq. The invitation was warmly accepted, and the date of the visit will be set later.

Sofia, 10 November 1983

Joint Statement on Ramadan's Visit to Romania

JN121914 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Iraq and Romania have reiterated their desire to expand trade and promote economic cooperation.

This was contained in a joint statement issued in Baghdad and Bucharest this evening at the end of a visit to Romania by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister.

The two sides stressed the decisive role played by Presidents Saddam Husayn and Nicolae Ceausescu during the talks, agreements, and decisions and in promoting cooperation between the Iraqi and Romanian people.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the continuing progress in the cordial relations between Iraq and Romania in a manner that will serve the interests of the two peoples and countries in all spheres. The two sides noted the existing possibilities for expanding trade and promoting economic cooperation between Iraq and Romania in conformity with the two countries' economic potential and the needs and interests of their national economies, and in accordance with the principles of equal rights, respect for national independence and sovereignty, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

The two sides expressed the Iraqi and Romanian Governments' anxiety over the exacerbation of tension in international relations and stressed the need to halt the arms race, achieve disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, wipe out backwardness, establish a new world economic system, and settle all the current disputes among the countries in a peaceful manner.

The two sides reiterated their countries' stands calling for the attainment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Arab-Zionist dispute based on the Zionist entity's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state.

The two sides stressed the need to exert efforts on all levels, and at the same time called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the forces of the Zionist entity from Lebanon and for safeguarding this country's independence, sovereignty, security, territorial integrity, and regional safety.

The two sides also expressed anxiety over the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran and the huge losses in life and equipment which it is causing. They stressed the need to halt military operations immediately and to settle this dispute in a peaceful manner, through negotiations, in a manner that will serve the interests of the two neighboring peoples, as well as peace and security in the region and everywhere else in the world. The two sides reiterated their two countries' support for the efforts underway on the international level for this purpose.

Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Iraq, expressed his deepest thanks for the cordial and warm welcome he and his accompanying delegation were accorded during the visit. Taha Yasin Ramadan extended an invitation to Romanian Prime Minister Comrade Constantin Dascalescu to pay an official visit to Iraq. The invitation was accepted with thanks and a date will be determined later.

Romanian Media Reportage

For Romanian media reportage on First Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan's official visit to Romania and his talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu, see the Romania section of the 14 November Easter Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Ramadan Returns to Baghdad

JN120921 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and his delegation returned to Baghdad last night after a tour of Bulgaria, Romania, and the Arab Republic of Egypt. In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that the tour's results were positive and fruitful. Two cooperation agreements in the economic, technical, and commercial fields were signed with Bulgaria and Romania, Ramadan added.

Ramadan's talks with the leaders of these states dealt with Arab and international issues of joint interest, developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war, the serious situation in Lebanon, and the aggression against the Palestinian revolution.

Joint Committee Discusses Relations With France

JN131205 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA) — The seventh session of the joint Iraqi-French committee began this morning under the chairmanship of Qasim Ahmad Taqi, Iraqi minister of oil, and Edith Cresson, French minister of foreign trade and tourism.

The Iraqi minister spoke on the occasion. He reviewed the efforts exerted by the two countries' officials to promote economic and cultural relations, increase the volume of trade, and expand the role of French institutions in implementing development projects in Iraq.

Edith Cresson said that France has spoken about the aggressors and about peace, and that it is now on Iraq's side. She then indicated the French companies' contribution to the implementation of several projects. She said that the two sides' efforts came as a result of a joint will to march ahead on sound foundations as stipulated by the agreements concluded between them. She stressed that France will give special privileges to relations with Iraq in the economic field, noting that this committee will discuss cultural, technical, and scientific cooperation for the first time. She said that the Baghdad International Fair shows the dynamism, courage, and high confidence which Iraq, on whose side France stands, enjoys.

The committee will discuss bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, and cultural fields. Mrs Cresson and her delegation arrived in Baghdad yesterday to participate in the committee meetings.

Ramadan Receives French Minister

JN132030 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Edith Cresson, French minister of foreign trade and tourism. They reviewed the cooperation relations between the two countries and the means of promoting them. Ramadan and Mrs Cresson expressed the Iraqi and French governments' satisfaction with the two countries' relations in various fields.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi; 'Abd al-Wahhab Mulla Huwaysh, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals; and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Sri Lankan Delegation

JN132033 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Tyrone Fernando, Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry under secretary and member of parliament, and his delegation. They reviewed bilateral relations and the means of promoting them. They also discussed relations between the Ba'th Party and the United National Party in Sri Lanka and the means of strengthening these relations.

'Aziz explained the Iranian regime's aggressive intentions, its insistence on continuing the war, and its negative response to the international efforts to end the war with Iraq, the latest being Iran's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 540.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, director of the foreign relations office of the Ba'th Party National Command.

President Receives Zambian Envoys, Message

JN101522 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda dealing with the existing cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

The message was delivered today when President Saddam Husayn received Dr (Rajishan Madivier), the Zambian president's special adviser and personal envoy to the Iraqi president, and Mr Herbert, the Zambian president's senior aide.

Zambian Envoy Leaves

JN121533 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA) — Dr (Rajishan Madivier), Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda's personal envoy, left Baghdad for home today at the end of a visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Zambian envoy delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on the existing cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

Saddam Husayn Discusses Republican Guards Role

JN101520 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has said that our special guards are for all the Iraqi people and the Army. When the republican guards are honored by defending Iraq's land, it does not mean a deficient act on their part as the lunatic Khomeyni imagines. During his reception this morning of another group of donors from As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, Saddam said that the special guards that do not fight in defense of Iraq in As-Sulaymaniyah, Basra, and the Misan border cannot defend the regime in the presidential palace.

More Bombs, Explosives Found in Amman

Bomb Near PRC Embassy

JN101856 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Ministry of Interior has stated that at 1630 today, Thursday, 10 November 1983, a citizen contacted the emergency police and informed them that he saw a briefcase left on open ground near the wall of a residential building that is 200 meters away from the professional associations' complex in an area opposite the PRC Embassy.

A security force immediately left for the scene. An examination of the briefcase revealed that it had about 12 kg of explosives set to go off. A special expert dismantled and defused it.

It is noteworthy that the esteemed citizen who reported the suspect briefcase is a 12-year-old school boy. He said that he saw the briefcase and was amazed to see it in that place. He immediately contacted the emergency police.

While thanking this brave school boy on behalf of the honorable citizens in steadfast Arab Jordan, the Ministry of Interior urges citizens to show further vigilance and stresses that the security organs will — with God's help maintain the good opinion of all the people. It will abort every criminal, subversive attempt aimed against all of us and against our country's security. Such attempts will not shake us, undermine our resolve, or prevent us from chasing and destroying the dens of evil. Such attempts will only increase our determination to safeguard this country from all havoc and plotting.

Explosives Near 3d Circle

JN121835 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Interior Ministry stated that at 1300 today, the security organs found a new quantity of explosives, TNT, weighing 40 kg, in the Third Circle in Jabal Amman. The explosives, which were prepared for detonation, were attached to two Butane cylinders. The explosives were found in a tourist car rented from the Sulwad Company, which rents cars in Amman. The competent authorities are investigating the circumstances and details surrounding the renting of that car and its use for purposes of sabotage.

On this occasion, the Interior Ministry affirms that the alertness of the security men and the cooperation of the brother citizens have had the greatest effect in averting dangers against our kinfolk. These dangers have been planned by the perpetrators of treason, who adopt as their trade the concoction of conspiracies against our homeland and our sacred cause, and who have recruited a handful of agents on whom our people will pass the sentence they deserve. Jordan will remain a steadfast bastion and a free arena for all honest men.

Press on Threats to Security

JN130954 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Plot to Tamper With Security Will Not Succeed," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: Our reply to the attempts aimed at creating havoc with our country's security will only be firmness and national cohesion to deter the conspiracy against our people and security.

The mines being planted in our country's roads to harm our country's innocent people cannot prevent our will and insistence on uprooting the tampering with and the encroachment on our country. These mines will be a motive for averting the danger from our people and for teaching unforgettable lessons to those who try to create havoc with our security. Those who are involved in the plot aimed at exploding and destroying the Arab situation and spreading fabricated internal problems do not want Jordan to enjoy stability or to continue adhering to its clear pan-Arab positions. Hence, they want to create sedition as a prelude to their tempering with and ambitions on this steadfast homeland.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: The fabricated path of terrorism, which some people think will enable them to achieve their objectives in our country, will be faced as the other plots have been faced. These plots and their tools were destroyed by our people's alertness, solid cohesion around their leaders, and confidence in the ability to uproot the sources and instruments of harm. The mines planted in the roads and alleys to kill our children are a conspiracy that arouses our conscience and determination to make us challenge the terrorism that resulted in the destruction of Lebanon and has made it an easy morsel for Israel; the destruction of the PLO, liquidating its role in resisting the occupation; and the destruction of Arab solidarity, exposing the Arab region to the dangers of conspiracies and foreign interference.

Jordan has overwhelming experience with resisting conspiracies. The will of the Jordanians and Palestinians in this territory is capable of exposing the new agents who are trying to strike at our nation and preoccupy the region with the harm, destruction, and division they inflicted on its entity and solidarity.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: The alertness of our people and the security organs in our country were ready for the cunning heads that are peeking out from their holes trying to deprive our children and citizens of security and stability. The conspiracy that has been concocted against the confrontation region for many years is trying to desrupt and destroy our country's capabilities. All of us —citizens as well as official and popular organs —will confront this conspiracy, because it is every citizen's responsibility to defend Jordan's prosperity, security, and national cohesion. The roles have been exposed, the slogans have been disproved, and the hands that are concocting plots against our nation's destiny are known to all. Our solid will, our people's alertness, our leadership's wisdom, and our ability to destroy the conspiracy are the best reply to the agents of terrorism and the masters who are directing them from behind curtains.

Jordan has always been and will remain a bastion on which impudents and their methods are destroyed. Jordan will continue to adhere to its pledge and cause. Plots and encroachment will not shake Jordan from its clear pan-Arab positions. As the wave of conspiracies becomes stronger, this country's banner will remain high and this community will maintain its confidence in its leaders and sons, as well as in its clear path and objectives despite all difficulties and obstacles.

Under the headline, "Despite Criminals' Hatred, We Will Stick To Our Principles," *AR-RA'Y* says: Two basic facts are asserted by this country's history: 1. The principles and bases on which Jordan's policy is based stem from its mission — the mission of the Great Arab Revolution. These principles and bases are not mere slogans, but clear practices. These practices build, and do not destroy; gather, and do not divide. 2. The firmness which distinguishes our country's policy and pan-Arab practices. This policy and these practices are not subject to influence, control, or deviation. Events have proven that all evil attempts aimed at pressuring this country, including the attempts aimed against our internal security, have failed. None of those who were involved in these attempts escaped the punishment.

AR-RA'Y continues: All must remember that cohesion and the responsibility shouldered by the citizen toward his country, security, and stability are now stronger than at any other time. This cohesion and this responsibility have aborted the criminal attempts vicious people made to plant mines and disturb security. Such vicious attempts will make this country more determined and insistent on strengthening its pan-Arab commitments and practices and on adhering to them. Those who are involved in extending the vicious hand to Jordan will not escape punishment; they will be an example to all.

Our Jordanian-Palestinian community has always been a bastion that will not be harmed by the criminals. This community will catch and expose them. The cohesive, strong community will continue to defend its rights and future despite the criminals' hatred.

Commentary Warns Terrorists, Criminals

JN131929 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Nov 83

["Today's Talk"]

[Text] We do not know why attacks and abuses have become a manner of conduct in this Arab time. Matters become confused until the secondary and fabricated issues and problems overwhelm the nation's fateful causes, and these issues and problems become a criterion for Arab relations.

Despite this, abuses continue in the Arab east, and they attempt to knock at Jordan's doors to draw this promising Arab sanctuary into what Lebanon was drawn into during the past 8 years. They try to deal with Jordan as the PLO is being dealt with in northern Lebanon these days. These abuses will continue to knock on Jordan's door, which is shut in the face of terrorism, betrayal, and assassination. The Jordanian people will remain vigilant in order to unveil these treacherous and cheap dealings with the Jordanian family's security, welfare, and prosperity.

Although we are aware of the price we could pay in confronting the methods of the terrorist criminal mind, we have no choice but to confront this offense with the determination it deserves and to strike at those who play havoc. The forces that are trying to shake Jordan's stability, threaten its social security, and undermine its prosperity in all fields might not be aware that their methods will result in loss and destruction to themselves. But we understand the necessity that pushes these forces to spread confusion in the societies in the Arab east, and we know the price for carrying out these criminal task against Jordan, the Arabs, and the Palestine question.

Jordan today is stronger than ever, and nothing will affect its march. Its banner will remain lofty. The treacherous and the tamperers will not be able to harm its existence. We want to explain some points so that the offenders will not escape their deterrent punishment. As all people know, the question is no longer a question of a tamperer here and a terrorist here. It went beyond that, to a plan of treachery and terrorism meant to destroy the Arab arena without considering any patriotic, pan-Arab, moral, and even human values.

Regarding such an onslaught, we can have but one position, one hand, and one heart in confronting this large-scale sabotage which aims at uprooting this nation, separating its present from its future, and destroying the landmarks of its coming generations' future. Althbough the offenders against this nation were encouraged by its silence over what has happened and is still happening in the Arab east, especially in Lebanon and in the PLO, represented by shedding Arab blood at the Arab hands, Jordan, which does not fear anybody as far as truth is concerned, will lie in wait for all the conspiratorial schemes, and the covetous will soon face punishment.

Ministry Denies Fatah Dissident's Claims

JN131048 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 83 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman, *AD-DUSTUR* — On Friday evening, 11 November 1983, the Syrian television aired a roundtable discussion for the dissident Fatah leaders on the current PLO situation. Samih Abu Kuwayk, one of the participants in the discussion, claimed that when one of the men of religion in the occupied West Bank was asked whey the men of religion support the Palestinian legitimacy and Yasir 'Arafat, he said that they received a statement from the Jordanian minister of religious affairs and holy places urging them to take this stand.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Holy Places categorically denies any such statements or instructions by the minister. Moreover, this ministry has not adopted any definite stand toward these regrettable incidents, considering them an internal affair that concerns the Palestinian brothers themselves. The stands adopted by the Palestinian popular sectors in the West Bank or elsewhere are an expression of their own convictions and what they deem beneficial to their cause, without any interference whatsoever.

What Samih Abu Kuwayk said in that roundtable discusion was completely false and groundless. While making this clarification, the Ministry beseeches God Almighty to unite all the Palestinian brothers along the path of justice and service of their sacred cause, and to keep them away from the causes of sedition and evils. God hears and responds.

AD-DUSTUR on West Bank Demonstrations for PLO

JN131030 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 13 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "The Palestinian Referendum," *AD-DUSTUR* says: One significance of the continued popular demonstrations staged in occupied West Bank and Gaza in the past few days is the large-scale support for the Palestinian legitimacy and the strong denunciation of the aggression both against it and against the attempt to deprive it of its free and independent will.

Under the yoke of occupation and from its big prison, the West Bank masses reiterated their support for the PLO and yesterday wrote in blood a document supporting this organization's leadership, which is fighting courageously to preserve the freedom of the Palestinian will and decisionmaking.

AD-DUSTUR continues: As we highly praise the lofty position the West Bank and Gaza masses did not hesitate to reiterate, we see it as a large-scale referendum on the PLO's leadership. The results of this referendum clearly and strongly deter all those who are playing havoc with the Palestinian destiny and those who are trying to seize the organization in order to seize the independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

If this is the position of the occupied territories' masses and all the Palestinians groups everywhere, including the masses of Al-Yarmuk Refugee Camp in the heart of the Syrian capital, how can all those who slander Palestinine find an excuse for hiding behind Palestinian facades that have been exposed to all and for continuing aggression against the PLO under excuses and slogans aimed at deluding the people?

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Because we believe that such a popular Palestinian position, which is equivalent with the steadfastness and courage of the PLO leadership in Tripoli, has helped to curb the plot to liquidate the Palestinian legitimacy, we are confident that the escalation of such popular uprisings will constitute one of the bases for defending the PLO and will strongly participate in protecting it from the cordon of annihilation imposed on it.

King Husayn Receives Pakistani Chief of Staff

JN101513 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn today received General Sawar Khan , chief of staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces, and decorated him with the Al-Istahqaq military medal, first class. Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Staff Major General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman attended.

Sees Prime Minister Badran

JN131308 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office this morning General Sawar Khan, chief of staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him on his current visit to Jordan.

Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad Summit Meeting Postponed

Presidents Agree To Meet

NC110947 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0941 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] We have just received the following report: As a result of the side meetings that followed the Geneva conference, the Voice of Lebanon has learned that a contact took place yesterday evening between Presidents Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad, during which they agreed to hold a Syrian-Lebanese summit at the beginning of next week. Another contact was held this morning between Lebanese and Saudi officials, during which an agreement was reached according to which the Lebanese president will visit Saudi Arabia. The visit is expected to take place at the end of next week.

Al-Jumayyil Phones Al-Asad

NC120455 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Within the context of the agreement that was reached during the first round of the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva, a telephone contact took place last night between President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, during which a review of the current situation was conducted. It has also been decided that President al-Jumayyil will visit Damascus at the beginning of next week. Unofficial information has mentioned that the visit will take place on Monday. A contact was also held between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia concerning the presidential visit to the Kingdom, which most likely will take place at the end of next week, perhaps on Saturday. But there has been no official statement setting the date for the two visits.

Official Departs for Damascus

NC131027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] This afternoon President Amin al-Jumayyil will preside over a meeting which will be attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Jean 'Ubayd to put the final touches on the dossier of the Lebanese-Syrian talks. It has been learned that a high-ranking military official left for Damascus today to prepare for the presidential visit. Sources of the Lebanese delegation said the president's visit to Damascus constitutes a good starting point, adding that the results will depend on the two presidents' closed meeting.

Al-Wazzan Statement on Meeting

NC130955 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] In an exclusive statement to the Voice of Lebanon, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said President al-Jumayyil's visit to Syria tomorrow and his meeting with President al-Asad is a positive development in relations between the two countries. These relations, the prime minister added, can only be normal and in constant progress in order to confront the dangers that have been menacing Lebanon for the past 9 years. The prime minister said: If the settlement of the Lebanese problem was in the past linked with the settlement of the Middle East crisis, the solution of Lebanon's problem has now become the key to solving the area's crisis. Prime Minister al-Wazzan expressed the conviction that President al-Jumayyil's visit to Syria will straighten out matters for the well-being of the entire region.

Al-Asad 'Indisposed'; Visit Postponed

NC131941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch from the editrial room — live]

[Text] An official source said a short time ago that President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus, which was scheduled to take place tomorrow, has been postponed. The source added that President Al-Jumayyil was called tonight by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and was told that President Al-Asad is indisposed, a matter which precludes his meeting with the Lebanese president, for the Syrian president must now be hospitalized. Therefore, it was decided to postpone President Al-Jumayyil's visit to the Syrian capital. The official source said that Minister Khaddam told President Al-Jumayyil that he will visit Beirut on Thursday to hold discussions to pave the way for the Lebanese president's visit when the Syrian president recovers.

U.S. Envoy Arrives, Received by Al-Jumayyil

NC132006 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Donald Rumsfeld, the new U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East, arrived in Beirut from Paris tonight to start his new mission. He was received by President Amin al-Jumayyil this evening.

Holds Talks With Al-Wazzan

NC141019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Donald Rumsfeld, the new U.S. Middle East envoy, is now meeting in Mansur Palace with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. Earlier, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan had reviewed with the U.S. Middle East envoy the general situation in the area, particularly in Lebanon. At the meeting, which was attended by the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Rumsfeld outlined the mission entrusted to him, the U.S. role, and the continued support which the United States accords to Lebanon. The meeting lasted 1 hour after which Rumsfeld declined to make any statement.

USSR Reported To Install SS-21's on Mount Sannin

NC101539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Western reports expect further U.S. overflights over military positions in the mountain following information received by U.S. intelligence on the Soviet Union's intention to install SS-21 missiles on Mount Sannin. It is known that the Sannin summit is considered an important strategic point that threatens the U.S. fleet's movement in the Mediterranean and the interior of Israeli territory.

Israeli Official on SS-21's

NC101548 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Yori Lobrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, has stated that his country does not fear the presence of SS-21 missiles in Syria. We cannot publicize what we possess to confront these missiles, he said. Lobrani explained that the Soviet Union has no interest in partaking in a war in the area. After affirming that Israel will continue to pursue the terrorists, he said that the Druze are not Israel's allies in Lebanon and that Walid Junblatt's policy is not stable. He is sometimes with Israel and sometimes with Syria.

U.S. Reportedly Installs Missiles in Al-'Aqurah

NC140639 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Press reports indicate that the U.S. force in Lebanon has turned the Al-'Aqurah heights into a military area and that sophisticated missiles have been installed there. The reports add that the citizens in the area are observing the U.S. moves and that the Marines have barred dozens of Lebanese hunters from entering the area. It was also learned that 45 days ago the Marine command rented a wing in the 'Ajaltun hospital in Kasrawan.

VOL: SAM-8 Missiles Fired at U.S. Aircraft

NC141232 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1222 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned from highly placed military sources that SAM-8 missiles were fired last week at U.S. warplanes which penetrated the Al-Biqa' skies. The sources added that the missiles missed their targets. Though the sources did not specify the site of the missiles, they, however, pointed out that missile batteries were manned by Syrian soldiers who were trained by Soviet experts. The sources added that following the incident, the Syrian military command moved the missile batteries because they were discovered by U.S. aircraft.

Amal Statement Criticizes U.S. Naval Deployment

NC121321 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 12 (AFP) — In Beirut, the situation south of the capital was quiet today after shooting yesterday in which several people were wounded. In Friday prayers, Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, a religious leader and member of the Shi'ite movement Amal, rejected a recent U.S. claim that rocket launching pads had been brought into the Shi'a Moslem stronghold south of Beirut, and were threatening U.S. Marines. Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir said there were "no rocket batteries and no terrorists hidden in the southern suburbs of Beirut". He said "we will defend this region with our bodies" in case of attack.

Today, Amal's political bureau criticised the U.S. naval deployment off Beirut, saying in a communique that the concentrations of American forces "are not justified". "On the pretext of supporting the Lebanese Government, American forces have recently begun reinforcing their military presence in Lebanon with a view to a major operation against Lebanon, Syria and Iran", the communique said.

The Shi'ite movement warned the United States against trying out in Lebanon a Grenada-style operation — a reference to the invasion by U.S. forces of the Caribbean island. A "military adventure" of this kind would lead to "an explosion of the situation throughout the region", it said.

Dialogue Committee Concludes Meetings in Geneva

JN111340 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] In Geneva the political committee stemming from the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference concluded its meetings last night. This morning the committee began drafting the text of the working document it completed yesterday. Antoine Ghusayn, the committee's spokesman, said yesterday that the viewpoints were identical on most of the issues studied by the committee. He declined to give any explanations on the details of the deliberations. It is noted that the National Dialogue Conference formed this political committee and entrusted it with preparations for the conference's second session. According to reports we received from Geneva today, it seems that the political committee's members reached an agreement on the text of the aforementioned document.

The political committee will forward its suggestions to President Amin al-Jumayyil before he goes to Washington. The political committee decided to meet again a week before the conference's second session due to be held on 5 December. However, Lebanese official circles have not yet confirmed this date because the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference had earlier decided to resume its session after the Lebanese president's tour of some Arab and Western capitals. It has been learned in this regard from an official Lebanese source that Foreign Minister Elie Salim is now working to oganize the Lebanese president's tour. The official Lebanese source voiced his satisfaction over the flexibility of the Syrian stand on Lebanon, stressing that Lebanese authorities are seeking appropriate methods to further bolster bilateral relations. A cable we received a short time ago stated that the official Lebanese radio at noon today said that the Lebanese president will pay an official visit to Damascus early next week. The radio stressed that this morning the Lebanese president telephoned his Syrian counterpart, after it was decided that the Lebanese president would visit Syria.

AFP: Broad Consensus Reached

NC111247 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 11 (AFP) — In Geneva, a spokesman for the political commission of the Lebanese reconciliation conference said last night that points of view "converged on most problems raised" during their talks. Earlier, a commission source earlier said "broad consensus" was reached on the following points:

— Equal representation for Christians and Moslems in parliament, instead of the present ratio of 54 Christians to 45 Moslems.

— The naming of the prime minister by parliament and not by the president.

— The creation of a high court to try politicians accused of abuses.

— The formation of a constitutional council.

— The abolition of official sectarianism in government and Army.

There was no consensus, the source said, on the distribution of offices such as the presidency, the premiership and the presidency of the National Assembly.

Dialogue Session Postponed

NC121938 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] This evening an official source explained that the second session of the National Dialogue Committee Conference, which was slated to meet in Geneva next Monday [14 Nov], has been postponed. The reason is that the contacts which are to be made by President Amin al-Jumayyil in a number of states will not be completed before next Monday. The source said the dates of the meetings with Arab and foreign leaders, whom President al-Jumayyil will visit at the request of leading members of the Dialogue Conference, have not all been set. Contacts are still under way to achieve this purpose so that the president of the republic will make his expected tour. The source emphasized that when these dates are set and when the presidential tour is completed, the date for the second session of the Dialogue Conference will be announced.

It is worth mentioning that provision 2 of the Geneva conference statement notes that a consensus has been established to the effect that because of the circumstances which coincided with the signing of the 17 May agreement and in view of the international implications that might arise from the continuation of the present state of affairs, the conference requests President Amin al-Jumayyil to make international contacts that are needed to end the Israeli occupation and to ensure Lebanon's full and absolute sovereignty over all its territory and in all national domains.

Prime Minister Comments on Current Situation

NC131100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has stated that the government is now focusing its efforts at sparing the country further tragedies and calamities whether in Tripoli, in the southern suburb of the capital, in the mountain, or in any part of Lebanon where innocent blood is still being shed for no crime and without the least justification. In an interview with the weekly magazine *MONDAY MORNING* to be published tomorrow, Prime Minister al-Wazzan pointed out that the current situation is fraught with danger. He also pointed out the possibilities of an explosion for one reason or another, some of which have nothing to do with Lebanon and the Lebanese at all. He added that this requires more vigilance and solidarity with the government to buttress the current efforts to achieve salvation and deliverance.

Further Comment

NC131318 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Wazzan said the Geneva conference and its attendance by all the conflicting sides in the Lebanese arena constitutes an important leap forward in the direction of achieving national reconciliation. He added that the Lebanese area is still a stage for a non-Lebanese war, which is persistently leaving its impact on the current efforts geared to achieve salvation, reconciliation, and deliverance. Prime Minister al-Wazzan said the fate of the 17 May agreement was dealt with at the Geneva conference in a national manner that took into consideration the challenges, contradictions, and dangers threatening the country. He said the Lebanese position is clear. As a result of the acceptance of the circumstances and the Israeli stand, and as a result of the dramatic bloody developments that have taken place in the mountain, the responsibility for which rests on Israel, Lebanon refrained from ratifying the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. The prime minister described the agreement not as an end, but as a means to enable Lebanon to liberate its territory and to spare it the continuing series of calamities. Prime Minister al-Wazzan said when a way is found to achieve this through any approach and by any means, the subject of the agreement will assume its natural size within the framework of the means conducive to the liberation of the homeland.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan emphasized that the establishment of a government of national unity is not only a normal matter, but also an inevitable, necessary matter, especially since his placing of his resignation at the disposal of the president is an extraordinary situation which cannot continue. The prime minister said the new circumstances require a new government with new approaches, capabilities, and bases that are consistent with the nature of the developments. The prime minister said in his interview that the change in government is a must, regardless of whether the results of the Geneva conference have been positive, as we wish them to be, or negative, God forbid. Asked whom he would nominate for heading the government of national unity, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: Up to now, I am still in myofficial position and I cannot delve into such details which basically depend on the outcome of expected developments.

Appeal to Tripoli Combatants

NC112110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has expressed his hope that the step that has been taken to reopen the Al-Awwali Bridge crossing point will be a step toward accelerating the restoration of normalcy in a manner facilitating the citizens' lives and a step that will restore the complete linkage between the south and the remaining parts of the homeland. Prime Minister al-Wazzan had earlier been given a number of briefings, through which he was informed of the step that has been taken, that is, the reopening of the Al-Awwali Bridge crossing point. Prime Minister al-Wazzan also followed the course of events in the north, as well as the security and political developments of these events.

In commenting on these events and developments, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: The contacts that are being held at the various domestic, Arab, and international levels have not yet been able to end the anxiety that grips everybody as the result of the existing tragic situation. Nor have these contacts achieved a unified stance among the combatants — a stance that would spare cherished Tripoli danger. Therefore, we again demand that all face up to their historic responsibility and that they not subject the Tripoli compatriots and the residents of the north to what is impermissible, particularly as these compatriots and all the Lebanese people have made costly sacrifices, and especially as they are unable to bear more such sacrifices, because the tragedy has befallen all the Lebanese areas. We have had enough tragedies, destruction, and bloodshed. Prime Minister al-Wazzan said in conclusion: Our conscience now raises an appeal from the bottom of our heart to the advocates of the same cause to return to the same trench and to spare Tripoli and the north tragedies and destruction.

Karami Statement Asks 'Arafat To Leave Tripoli

JN102050 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 83

["Text" of statement by former Prime Minister Rashid Karami; date and place not specified — videorecorded]

[Text] Out of our concern for right and destiny, especially during this stage in which plotting against us from every side is being intensified, everyone of us is aware of the historical responsibility our kinfolk and nation have because of the presence of the fleets stationed off our coasts and because of the activities of the Israeli enemy — the Israeli enemy which has called up its reservists and mobilized its forces. This clearly proves the hostile intentions against Lebanon and against fraternal Syria to affect its steadfastness and its policy that rejects all forms of blackmail, terrorism, and subjugation. All of this must urge us to free the arena from side conflicts and to clear the march from all the faulty and disturbing factors in order to strengthen the stand and the course. This is the only guarantee for unifying the honest and sincere forces and for pointing all rifles against the common enemy.

Here lies our concern for Tripoli and the north, a concern that is equal to our concern for the Palestinians — people, issue, revolution, and the PLO. Positive action and balanced solutions are required in order to save all of us from this painful situation we have reached. Tripoli and the north represent a national fortress that plays a basic role in the national struggle on both the Lebanese and pan-Arab levels. Tripoli was supporting and will continue to support the Palestinian people's just cause. Therefore, the Palestinian question must be saved from what it is being exposed to. We seek to deal with the causes of this ordeal in order to avoid repeating what has taken place and to maintain the role of Tripoli and the north by creating a democratic atmosphere and establishing freedom. We also seek to strengthen our national policy, on which we all are unanimous, and to create the required atmosphere in order to enable all forces to cooperate and to assume their responsibilities.

This is why I held contacts with the Palestinian brothers who are concerned with the ongoing conflict. After reviewing all aspects and after hearing the various viewpoints, they graciously entrusted me with the task of formulating a plan that would enable us to extricate ourselves and to respond to the demands of our country's people — demands which have been expressed through the statements issued by various organizations, parties, and functionaries. In light of all this, and after consulting with my brothers in the National Salvation Front, and in appreciation for the directives of Lebanon's mufti and the people who showed special concern for the current situation, I deem it necessary to abide by the following:

First, In confirmation of, abidance by, and respect for the ceasefire both inside and outside the city, and second, due to the delicacy and seriousness of the stage and what it requires in effective action to confront all dangers from U.S.-Israeli threats, we believe that Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] place today should be outside Tripoli. He and his brothers must leave Tripoli in order to play his role in confronting these dangers. Third, for the same reasons and facts, we ask the brother Palestinian fighters to not enter the city of Tripoli and to be stationed in their positions opposite the Zionist enemy. That is their natural place. Fourth, I call on everyone to avoid pitfalls, blood, and harm. This is a duty that must be performed in order to restore stability, security, and tranquility in Tripoli and the north and to enable those who left the painful situation in the city to return. I also call on everyone to eliminate all armed manifestations and all that would disturb the citizens of the one Tripoli family in order to play our basic role, by all means, in establishing the unified, sovereign, Arab, democratic, and independent Lebanon.

Karami Interview on 'Arafat

JN112135 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Telephone interview with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami by Radio Monte Carlo's Chief Editor Antoine Abu Samra on 11 November, carried on the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Abu Samra] Do you request 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli only or also from north Lebanon and Lebanon?

[Rashid Karami] Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] presence in north Lebanon is to resolve the Palestinian people's problem — those people who are present in the camps. Although we are pained by the conflict between the brothers, we believe that fighting must be directed at the enemy. Furthermore, if Brother Abu 'Ammar's departure to his more spacious field of action and to the arena for which the political action is taken to serve the Palestinian revolution's objectives constitutes an outlet for the present crisis, I believe that this departure is not costly, particularly if it also constitutes an approach to radical solutions to the Palestinian differences.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, do you request Abu 'Ammar's departure from Tripoli or Lebanon?

[Karami] In fact, I ask Abu 'Ammar to be at a more useful place in order to play his role in serving his cause and the causes of his brothers, whether in Lebanon or in any other Arab country. We do not request this because we are against Abu 'Ammar. Everybody knows our stand toward the [Palestinian] revolution and its leader. We also say that this conflict must be settled by the leader. This is his direct responsibility because he is responsible for the revolution. In my opinion, whatever the causes of the conflict are they can be solved. Violence and guns are not the means of this solution. A solution can be reached through a political dialogue. An example of this is our's here in Lebanon. After 9 years of conflict we were able to reach a solution. In Geneva and at our last meeting we were able through political means and dialogue to begin the course which can lead us, God willing, to an outlet from this conspiracy in which we had fallen.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, at the Geneva conference you returned through the big door to the surface of events. Does this return mean that you are the upcoming Lebanese prime minister?

[Karami] In fact, we are working in order to serve the higher national interests and for the sake of the one, sovereign, Arab, and independent Lebanon. We are against all plans and efforts being exerted to partition Lebanon and to subjugate it to Israeli and colonialist hegemony. Therefore, we do not have private interests and do not run after public positions through our present struggle.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, do all the Tripoli citizens agree with you, Abu 'Ammar's departure from Tripoli to avoid the destruction of the city?

[Karami] I am certain that all the Tripoli citizens unanimously agree on keeping Tripoli far away from this Palestinian conflict, because we consider ourselves first concerned about patching up the differences between the comrades in arm. Second, we consider Tripoli a national fortress which must be employed for any act of struggle against whomever wants to harm Arab rights anywhere. We are also against holding Tripoli responsible for what is currently taking place and which consequently causes harm and destruction to it because this destruction serves nobody. Thus, the citizens of Tripoli and myself are looking for solutions which willenable us to avoid such harmful consequences. I have said and I repeat that if Abu 'Ammar's departure from Tripoli can resolve these problems, the price of this departure will be cheap.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, if Abu 'Ammar does not leave Tripoli, what will be the solution?

[Karami] I do not imagine that Brother Abu 'Ammar can stay in Tripoli forever because his stay will deprive him of the activities which we were accustomed to see him making in the international arena to serve his people's question. Abu 'Ammar's stay in Tripoli will primarily hurt his own role.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, in order to control the security situation in Tripoli and if the Lebanese Army has the capability to intervene in Tripoli in order to control this situation, will you ask the Army to do this?

[Karami] This is one of the wishes which we currently lack the capabilities to realize. Therefore, discussing such solutions is very immature.

[Abu Samra] Your Excellency, it is well known that when you were prime minister there were Palestinian violations and you used to object to the Army's intervention. What were your reasons for prohibiting the Army's intervention to halt these Palestinian violations in Beirut in particular?

[Karami] Because I have always believed in political action and in resolving matters through dialogue and persuasion. I think that the present and previous experiences have proven that using the Army does not lead to aspired results. On the contrary, such usage complicated matters. The Army now is being used, and what do we see happening — it has become one of the factions. The state — the authority — must always remain an arbiter in order to be able to play its role in the present conflicts and discords.

Islamic Movement Leader Discusses 'Arafat, Tripoli

JN122012 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1744 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Telephone interview with Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of Islamic Unification Movement, in Tripoli on 11 November by Antoine Abu Samra, Monte Carlo chief editor, carried on the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program — recorded]

[Text] [Antoine Abu Samra] My first question is: During the Friday oration today, you said that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is free to behave and act in Tripoli, Damascus, and all Arab cities and capitals. Do we understand by this that you support Yasir 'Arafat's continued presence in Tripoli?

[Sa'id Sha'ban] I host all the Palestinians in my heart because they are my brothers. I hope that Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] will stop the harm inflicted on his kinfolk and people and not listen to those who push him toward fratricide. I think that Yasir 'Arafat and all the Palestinians, who were deprived of their country and land, are entitled to live in our country. Therefore, asking 'Arafat to leave Damascus, then Lebanon, and then Tunisia is a colonialist plan aimed at persecuting the

Palestinians everywhere and making them forget the Palestinian question and get away from Israel, which feels that the region has begun to wake up. Therefore, we tell all the Palestinians, including Abu Musa and Yasir 'Arafat: You are welcome in Tripoli, but spare us your guns which are killing you and the Lebanese in Tripoli with you. Sit together so that we can sit with you for dialogue, during which we can settle your differences and unify ranks with you and the Syrian Army so that we can take up positions on the frontline against Israel.

[Abu Samra] Let us assume that Abu 'Ammar finally agrees to leave Tripoli, what will be the future of the Islamic Unification Movement? Do you think that you will be subjected to pressure even after Abu 'Ammar's departure from the city?

[Sa'id Sha'ban] Yes, we expect this. We do not depend on Abu 'Ammar. We depend on God and afterward on our people and right. It is not necessary for us to become part of the Palestinian issue even if the international decision appears to want to make the Lebanese issue another Palestinian issue.

[Abu Samra] Whom do you fear?

[Sa'id Sha'ban] We fear all our enemies and the enemies of humanity headed by the United States and Israel, its agent in the region, which plan the policy of expelling people from their homes and countries. Israel's dream which is always voiced by the Jews is to extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. I do not believe that Israel intends to stop at the point it has reached.

[Abu Samra] The battles are now raging between Abu Musa's and Yasir 'Arafat's groups. Do you fear Abu Musa's group, perhaps with Syrian-Libyan backing?

[Sa'id Sha'ban] In fact, we do not fear anyone. We would like to see the differences between Abu Musa and Abu 'Ammar end as I told you. If the matter is aimed against us then we welcome anything imposed on us. We do not want matters to worsen but we would like to see a peaceful and brotherly result. We would like to see the Syrian Army, the Palestinian revolution, and the oppressed in Lebanon a united army and rank facing the common enemy, Israel. We do not want to become people fighting among ourselves, to be laughed at by Israel and the colonialist countries. I would have liked to see the Syrian Army united with the Palestinian revolution, the Arab armies, and the entire Arab peoples to liberate Palestine and not bury its cause in this ugly way being implemented in Lebanon after Jordan and Palestine.

[Abu Samra] What is your opinion of Rashid Karami's statement in Damascus in which he asked Abu 'Ammar to leave Tripoli?

[Sa'id Sha'ban] I do not think that Karami has the right to make such a request. This is because Abu 'Ammar is an Arab and a Muslim in an Arab and Muslim country. Abu 'Ammar has the right to reside wherever he wishes and he must be welcomed everywhere. Abu 'Ammar is not a Jew to be persecuted. There are Jews living among us in Lebanon, and we do not harass or disturb them. There are many people of differing nationalities who came from the United States, Europe, and the rest of the world to live among us. Therefore, why should Abu 'Ammar in particular be chosen to leave? It is inappropriate in Arab and Islamic hospitality for Karami to make such a demand. I believe that this is not Karami's opinion, but it seems that the political situation imposed such a stand. I say that 'Arafat is among his kinfolk and we welcome Abu Musa in Tripoli so that we can receive him as a dignified brother in our homes. Our pleasure would be great if Abu 'Ammar and Abu Musa met in my home so that we could form between the Unification Movement, the PLO, and the Syrian Army a united army toward liberation, God willing.

[Abu Samra] Do I understand that Rashid Karami made his statement as a result of pressures exerted on him?

[Sa'id Sha'ban] I think that Karami, being a brilliant and veteran politican, could not possibly make such statements because Karami respects people and cannot possibly be a custodian over Abu 'Ammar. Karami cannot agree to say such things. Would Karami accept being told to live here or there? Is Abu 'Ammar so humiliated among his people and in his country to become persecuted after being expelled from Damascus and be also expelled from Tripoli? We regard this as an attack against Abu 'Ammar's dignity and even against the dignity of the Palestinian people whom Abu 'Ammar represents. We welcome Abu 'Ammar, Abu Musa, and the Syrians in our homes. We showered the Syrian Army with rice when it entered because we regarded it as a brother army and regard Syria as part of our country. The only thing that separates Syria and Lebanon is the Sykes-Picot agreement which divided this Arab world in order to destroy and humiliate it. Therefore, we must all endeavor to achieve united rank and not fratricide that grieves us all.

[Abu Samra] Abu 'Ammar said: If all the people in Tripoli asked me to leave the city, then I would leave. I now realize that not all the people in Tripoli are agreed on asking Abu 'Ammar to leave.

[Sa'id Sha'ban] I do not think that the people in Tripoli will make such a demand because that would be a historical shame disgracing every person in Tripoli who asks Abu 'Ammar to leave. We have not been accustomed in our history, civilization, and traditions to expel those who seek refuge with us. Before Islam, we used to give refuge to those who sought it with us. During the days of the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, an infidel sought refuge with Um Hani', a Muslim woman, who went to the Prophet and said: I gave refuge to such a person. The Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, said: We will give refuge to the person to whom you have given refuge. This means that the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, regarded anyone seeking refuge with a Muslim as having the right to be protected. Therefore, what about he who seeks refuge with all of us?

Junblatt Party Official Protests Syrian Harassment

NC131255 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon learned today that officials from Junblatt's party have protested to the Syrian intelligence command against the harassment to which their party members in the mountain have been subjected. The Syrian intelligence command has given up its reliance on Junblatt personnel, reduced the amount of cooperation with them, and replaced them with elements of the Syrian Social National Party [SSNP] belonging to the Druze sect. Meanwhile, Junblatt elements in Sawfar attempted to kidnap some SSNP elements collaborating with Syrian intelligence by ambushing an SSNP patrol in Baysur. The Syrian roadblocks stop Junblatt gunmen at times and disarm them at others. The Syrians recently detained a number of Junblatt gunmen but released them 2 days later.

Resistance Responsible for An-Nabatiyah Explosion

NC131458 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Members of the Lebanese National Resistance carried out a new operation today on the An-Nabatiyah-[word indistinct] main road killing and wounding several enemy soldiers. At 0530 today National Resistance members detonated a highly explosive device planted on the side road when an Israeli motorized patrol was passing. It has been reported that an enemy's vehicle and a jeep were destroyed and some members of the patrol were killed and wounded. The security sources have not been able to determine the number of casualties because of the security cordon imposed around the area by the occupation forces. A Peugeot happened to pass in the opposite direction when the explosion occurred. Its driver, Jawdat 'Ali 'Allun, and another unidentified person were martyred. Media sources identified this other person as Muhammad Nasrallah, who has actually come to us and denied that he was involved in any incident.

IDF-Resistance Clash Reported

NC140634 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Four Zionist soldiers were wounded last night in a military operation carried out by the Lebanese National Resistance men when they attacked an enemy patrol along the main road near Al-Ghaziyah and clashed with the patrol's personnel for 7 minutes. They returned safely to base after putting an enemy vehicle out of action and destroying one jeep.

Israeli Roadblock at Al-Awwali Attacked

NC141120 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] At 1200 today an unidentified person threw a handgrenade at the Israeli roadblock at the Al-Awwali Bridge. Initial information made no mention of human losses. The Israeli forces immediately blocked the coastal road in two directions and launched a search campaign in the nearby orchards for gunmen and suspicious persons.

IDF Halts Traffic on Al-Awwali River Bridge

NC140829 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Our correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that Israeli forces have been preventing traffic from crossing the Al-Awwali River bridge in either direction since 0900 this morning. Scores of vehicles are seen in long lines awaiting their turn to pass. Heavy rain, which has turned the roads into swamps, has contributed to the traffic congestion, and pedestrians are unable to cross the Al-Awwali River bridge.

Katyusha Rocket Misses Israeli Post in South

NC140825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] At 0940 this morning a Katyusha rocket was directed againstthe Israeli post in Wadi al-'Aqbiyah on the Sidon-Tyre road butmissed its target. Israeli forces have blocked the road and are combing the area in search of the culprits.

Musawi Group Said Preparing Attack on U.S., French

NC112034 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Security information says that the Husayn Musawi group has brought an armored personnel carrier [mallalah] to the capital's southern suburb after seizing it and other vehicles from the Lebanese Army's Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk. The vehicle is currently being packed with explosives in the Al-Ma'murah locality with the aim of detonating it in a French or U.S. position in Beirut. During the recent incidents, the Socialists seized two similar M-113 armored personnel carriers, while Amal gunmen seized one armored personnel carrier.

Socialist Infiltration Attempt Thwarted

NC140853 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] At 0530 today the Socialists attempted to infiltrateTallat Zaruit in the Al-Kharrub region using mortars, B-7's and B-10's as well as anti-armor guns. Lebanese forces checked the attempt and forced the attackers to retreat.

Palestinian-Leftist Presence in Beirut Intensifies

NC140646 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Suspicious Palestinian-leftist movements have recently been intensified in west Beirut and the southern suburb following the thinning out of the Lebanese Army's presence in the area. Security sources have said that Palestinian and leftist elements have been infiltrating into Beirut in a bid to reorganize terrorist cells with the help of Palestinian weapons still in storage in west Beirut. The Junblattites' endeavor to entrench their presence in west Beirut is at the same rate as Sunni and Shi'ite forces. In the meantime, the As-Sa'iqah organization and extremist Islamic organizations have noticeably intensified their activities.

Reportage on Khaddam Official Visit to Moscow

JN101904 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Official talks between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Andrey Gromyko, Soviet first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, began in the Kremlin today. They principally discussed issues related to the situation in the Middle East in general and in Lebanon in particular. The two sides agreed that the main reason for the new deterioration in the situation in this region is the continued Israeli aggression and the increasing U.S. intervention, including armed intervention in the Arab countries' affairs, that is making Lebanon its new victim.

The two sides affirmed that the United States is intentionally aggravating the internal Lebanese conflict in order to increase and reinforce its military presence in that country and to transform it into a platform for exerting pressure on Syria and other Arab countries. Khaddam and Gromyko affirmed the principal line of Syria and the USSR in supporting the Lebanese people's struggle to attain Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and the unity and safety of its territory. It was also pointed out that maintaining Lebanon as a sovereign state urgently necessitates the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli forces and the U.S. and NATO forces from Lebanon in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

The two sides positively assessed the start of a political dialogue among the Lebanese parties as a step toward internal settlement in Lebanon on the basis of national accord.

Khaddam arrived in Moscow today on an official visit.

Further on Talks

JN110658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Moscow — Official talks between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and Andrey Gromyko, Soviet first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, began in the Kremlin yesterday. They principally discussed issues related to the situation in the Middle East in general, and Lebanon in particular.

The two sides positively assessed the start of political dialogue among the Lebanese parties as a step toward internal settlement in Lebanon on the basis of national accord. The two sides stressed the importance of solidarity and coordination among the Arab countries to foil the fierce and aggressive schemes of the United States and Israel. On behalf of the Syrian command, Khaddam expressed thanks to the USSR for its assistance and support for Syria and the other Arab countries in their confrontation of the imperialist schemes in the Middle East.

Talks between the two sides will continue. Khaddam arrived in Moscow yesterday on a working visit at the invitation of the USSR Government.

Talks End

JN111920 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] In Moscow, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has ended his talks with Andrey Gromyko, Soviet first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The two sides had intensively discussed Lebanon's problems and current events in Tripoli in northern Lebanon.

Khaddam Kremlin Luncheon Speech

JN112206 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Damascus this evening after concluding his 2-day visit to the USSR.

Andrey Gromyko, Soviet first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, gave a luncheon in honor of Khaddam in the Kremlin. The two ministers delivered speeches on this occasion. The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister affirmed in his speech that the consultation and exchange of views on the various issues between the friendly countries has become part of the tradition of cooperation between them, particularly at this stage through which the world in general, and the Middle East in particular, is passing as a result of the aggressive U.S. imperialist policy which has placed the world in a state of tension and posed a threat to world security and peace.

Khaddam affirmed that Syria will remain steadfast in the face of all attempts aimed against its independence and will confront with all available means and determination all actions to which it might be subjected. Syria is confident that the forces of aggression, regardless of its size, cannot shake Syria's resolve to uphold its land and defend its national honor. He added that the threats of certain U.S. and Israeli circles will not weaken Syria's resolve to continue its national course, oppose aggression and occupation, and support the Lebanese people in their just and legitimate struggle to expel the Israeli aggressor from its land and regain its national unity.

Khaddam affirmed that Syria will exert its utmost efforts toward the success of the national accord conference within the aims of expelling the Israeli enemy, canceling the agreement which was imposed on Lebanon through the force of occupation, and achieving national unity and the withdrawal of the Multinational Force which has turned into a foreign presence which threatens not only Lebanon but also the entire region.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that the situation in the Middle East continues to worsen and become more complicated as a result of continued Israeli occupation and the Israelis' refusal to move toward a just and durable peace that guarantees the complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and recognizes the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return and to self-determination and to establish their independent country on their national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

Khaddam noted the USSR's great support for and assistance to Syria, which helps its steadfastness and enables it to confront the aggression. Khaddam expressed the Syrian people's gratitude to the USSR peoples and their leadership for their support and backing for Syria in its struggle against imperialism.

Damascus on Gromyko Kremlin Speech

JN120748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Damascus —'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Damascus last night after concluding his 2-day visit to the USSR. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko gave a luncheon at the Kremlin in honor of Khaddam. The two ministers delivered speeches on this occasion.

Andrey Gromyko said in a speech during the banquet: The increasingly serious and tense Middle East situation is a result of Washington's aggressive, adventurous policy aimed at imposing its will from a position of strength on other countries and people. Gromyko referred to the aggressive U.S. policy in the Middle East which is clearly manifested in its interference in the Lebanese people's internal affairs and its imposition of the agreement of submission against the wishes of the majority of the Lebanese people and Arab states.

He said the USSR supports the cease-fire between the Lebanese sides as well as the Lebanese national dialogue aimed at strengthening and expanding the basis of struggle for all of Lebanon for the sake of its independence and territorial integrity, while preserving its strong ties with the Arab world, which regards Lebanon as an integral member.

The USSR foreign minister said that Syria is being exposed to pressure because it has decided to remain steadfast in dealing with the Arab nation's issues against imperialist designs; that Syria is being exposed to verbal threats, and that this talk is escalating.

Gromyko said that Washington is endeavoring to exploit the tense Lebanese situation as a result of the U.S.- backed Israeli aggression in order to expand and affirm its military presence in the Middle East under the pretext of establishing peace in Lebanon. He demanded the immediate withdrawal of the invading Israel forces from Lebanese territory and the pullout of the multinational forces composed of U.S. military units and other NATO units.

The USSR foreign minister affirmed the Soviet Union's principled stand on a Middle East solution. This stand stems from the premise that holding a special Middle East international conference will be a constructive means of reaching a solution.

He also renewed Soviet support for the Arab people's struggle against imperialism and its Zionist agents in order to establish a just, permanent peace in the region. Gromyko referred to Soviet President Andropov's assertions in this regard.

Differences Reported

NC121156 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 12 Nov 83

[By Pierre Bocev]

[Text] Moscow, Nov 12 (AFP) — A visit here by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam ended today with a clear signal from the Kremlin that Damascus should stop fomenting strife in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko underlined the "urgent need" to overcome "divergences" in the Palestinian movement, the Soviet news agency TASS reported here.

Internecine conflict must stop in order to allow the "anti-imperialist struggle" in the Middle East to continue, Mr. Gromyko said.

In the coded diplomatic language of Soviet alliances, the Soviet stress on PLO unity appeared to amount to an implicit condemnation of Syrian policy.

Damascus has given persistent military and political backing to rebel members of Fatah, the main guerrilla group in the PLO, and who have made their former chief, Yasir 'Arafat, retreat to his last redoubt in Tripoli, north Lebanon.

Syrian discomfiture at the Soviet stance could also have been signalled by Mr. Khaddam's failure to refer publicly at any time here to the PLO crisis — although his 24-hour trip was ostensibly to discuss the rift.

Another reference made conspicuous by its absence was the position on Mr. 'Arafat.

Mr. Khaddam asserted that a prospective Palestinian state would be directed by the "sole legitimate representative", the PLO.

But he carefully skirted the basic issue of the support lent by Damascus to Palestinians eager to change the present shape of their organisation.

The Soviet leadership also devoted a longer outpouring on Palestinian unity before Mr. Khaddam's trip, it was revealed.

On the eve of Mr. Khaddam's arrival, the head of international relations in the Communist Party's Central Committee, Boris Ponomarev, gathered Communist journalists for a press conference.

In a speech which went unpublicised in the Soviet media — doubtless so as not to offend the Syrian visitor — Mr. Ponomarev declared Moscow could not fail to be preoccupied by the situation in the PLO. The inter-Palestinian conflict in north Lebanon "harmed the Palestinian cause as well as that of the national patriotic forcesin Lebanon and all Arabs," he said, according to a text obtained by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Moscow will pursue its bid to strengthen Palestinian coherence by shortly announcing the visit of a senior PLO official, according to persistent rumours in Arab circles here.

Another divergence between Moscow and Damascus apparently emerged over different stresses on the friendship and cooperation treaty, which was renewed this summer and was reportedly followed by a massive injection of Soviet military aid.

Mr. Gromyko made no mention of the accord, which lies at the heart of the Soviet-Syrian alliance.

But Mr. Khaddam launched a eulogy of the "immense help" given by the Soviet Union, which had enabled Syria to "resist aggression" — a reminder of Moscow's military obligations to its Arab ally, experts said.

Untarnished agreement seems to have been found only on one point, in a combined condemnation of the role of the United States and Israel in Lebanon.

The ministers were equally forceful in their demand for a withdrawal from Lebanon by those nations' forces.

Andropov Reportedly Sends Message to Al-Asad

LD101929 Kuwait KUNA in English 1801 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Moscow, Nov 10 (KUNA) — Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived here Thursday in an atmosphere of considerable tension between Syrian and the Soviet Union over Syrian involvement in the Tripoli fighting between opponents and supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

In an apparent gesture of support for 'Arafat, the Soviet news agency TASS carried the appeal sent by the Palestinian leader to President Yuriy Andropov calling on him to pressurize the Syrian and Libyan leadership for an end to the shelling of loyalist positions.

The indications are that although the Soviet Union has been careful not to take sides in the inter-Fatah dispute in general, restricting its comment on the Tripoli clashes to expressions of regret and warnings that this weakened the common front against the Israelis and Americans in Lebanon, Moscow is strongly opposed to Syrian intervention in the crisis and is working behind the scenes to prevent further escalation.

A senior Palestinian official said in Kuwait Thursday that Andropov had sent a message to Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad earlier in the week saying that it was unacceptable for Soviet weapons to be used against Palestinians.

The official, a top 'Arafat aide, added that a copy of the letter, which he described as "strongly-worded" had been sent to the PLO headquarters in Tunis to make clear the Soviet stand.

In Moscow meanwhile it was announced that Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), one of the most outspoken critics of 'Arafat's opponents ever since differences within Fatah surfaced in May, would head a Palestinian delegation which would arrive in Moscow immediately after Khaddam's departure.

Joint Statement

JN122032 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Syria and the USSR have stressed that the situation in the Middle East is being aggravated once again and that the principal reason for this is the political trend of the U.S. Administration and its actual practices. Washington has now moved from the wide support it used to extend to Israel in the latter's aggression against the Arab countries to direct interference, including military interference, in these countries' affairs.

The joint statement was issued at the end of the talks held in Moscow between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Regional Command member and first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Andrey Gromyko, Soviet first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister.

The statement pointed out that by expanding the U.S. military presence in the region, Washington seeks to suppress the Arabs' resistance to the imperialist policy of the United States in the Middle East and to establish a bridgehead for acts of sabotage against the Arab countries and against other independent countries and peoples in the neighboring regions on the basis of a strategic alliance with Israel.

The statement noted that such practices constitute a blatant violation of the principles of international law and the UN Charter, a flagrant disregard of the peoples' inalienable right to self-determination, and an impudent provocation of world public opinion — a matter that is considered the pattern of a policy of interference which the United States is adopting and following in Lebanon.

The statement said that the United States, after it had imposed on the Lebanese Government the unfair agreement with Israel which is hostile to the Arabs, is now seeking to transform Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate. Syria and the USSR vehemently denounce the hostile policy of Washington and Israel toward Lebanon and believe that this policy constitutes a major obstacle on the road to attaining an internal settlement in Lebanon within the framework of national accord, and that such a settlement, based on safeguarding Lebanon's unity, its territorial integrity, independence, and national sovereignty, will not be possible unless all the Israeli forces and the NATO forces immediately and unconditionally withdraw form that country.

The two sides stressed that the schemes planned by the United States and Israel, in addition to their practical steps in Lebanon, pose a threat to Syria's security and that of the other Arab countries.

The Syrian Arab side and the USSR side exchanged views on the threats of the United States and Israel against Syria and the danger of aggression against it.

The USSR side voiced its support for the stand of Syria, which is confronting the machinations of imperialism and Zionism and is rejecting the threats and military pressure to which it is being subjected.

The USSR stated that it will continue its support for the struggle of the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian people and for the Arab people in the other Arab countries against the aggressive schemes of the United States and Israel and against their expansionist policy in the Middle East.

The two sides were in agreement that the serious development of events in this area of the world and the aggression of U.S. imperialism and Israel against the Arabs' national rights must be confronted with the coordinated action of the Arab countries and all the Arab nationalist forces.

During the talks, the two sides stressed that a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East cannot be attained without the Israeli forces' complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's firm national rights, including their right to establish their own independent state.

The two sides said that this settlement cannot be attained without the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO — the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative — and without collective efforts.

The two sides firmly condemned the oppression and tyranny the United States is practicing in the Middle East as well as in other areas in the world, particularly in Central America and in the Caribbean Basin. They called for the immediate suspension of the U.S. aggression against Grenada and for the U.S. forces' complete withdrawal from its territory.

The Syrian Arab side highly evaluated the constructive trend of USSR foreign policy and the statement by Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on 28 September, as well as the USSR's determination to work with all its power to remove the threats of nuclear war and to scale down the arms race.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam voiced deep appreciation for the USSR's firm support for the Syrian Arab and Palestinian peoples, and for the Arab people in other Arab states, in defending their national rights against imperialist and Zionist desires.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the constant development of Syrian-USSR relations on the basis of the agreement of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The USSR and Syria confirmed their adherence to the commitments contained in this agreement.

During the talks, the two sides underscored the importance of continuing to exchange viewpoints and to hold consultations on the situation in the Middle East and international issues of common interest.

The talks between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Andrey Gromyko were held in a cordial atmosphere, which characterizes the relations between Syria and the USSR. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam voiced his appreciation for the warm welcome accorded him during his visit to the USSR.

USSR General Comments on U.S. Role in Mideast

JN131529 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA) — General Dmitriy Volkogonov, a doctor of philosophy and responsible official in the Amin Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, has voiced the USSR's concern over the serious developments in the Middle East. In an interview with the newspaper *TISHRIN* published today, Volkogonov said that the United States has surrounded the globe with a network of military bases whose geographical nature clearly shows U.S. imperialism's mounting aggressiveness and endeavors to control the world by force of arms and transform it into a field of U.S. vital interests.

The Soviet military official wondered: Is this not proved by U.S. plans which aim at expansion by using bases and airstrips in Israel and Egypt, and by deploying groups of forces in areas very near the Middle East such as Oman, Somalia, and Kenya? Volkogonov said that what is preventing the realization of the strategic aims of the U.S. bases is the socialist bloc states led by the USSR and the rest of the peace-loving states and those who defend their sovereignty. In such circumstances, he added, the USSR and its allies are forced to attach great importance to enhancing their armed forces' defense capability. He said that the combat capability of these forces are the main and basic deterrent that prevents world imperialism, led by the United States, from carrying out its aggressive plans.

On the efforts by the United States and its allies to strengthen and expand their strategic presence in the Middle East region, Volkogonov pointed out that since the early 1980's, the United States has been adopting a new strategy called direct confrontation. He said that Washington's interests are well known: strengthening and expanding the fields of the U.S. monopolies in the region and striking at the progressive Arab regimes and the national liberation movements. For this reason, it was decided to form the RDF, whose affairs have been officially assigned to the U.S. Armed Forces central command, which was especially directed to do this.

Volkogonov also said that by encouraging Israel's aggressive policy and using it as a striking tool, the United States is endeavoring to entrench its direct military presence in this region. There are large U.S. forces sstationed in Egypt and Lebanon under the guise of the Multinational Forces. This, naturally, must be a source of concern for the USSR because serious Middle East developments imply a threat to its southern borders.

Concluding his statement, the Soviet military official called on the national liberation movements and world public opinion to stand in a united front against the aggressive U.S. designs so as to ensure world peace.

USSR Military Delegation Pays 'Secret Visit'

LD101726 Kuwait KUNA in English 1553 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] London, Nov 10 (KUNA) — A Soviet military delegation had recently paid a "secret visit" to Damascus to sound out the possibility of "establishing a Soviet Naval base" at the Syrian port of Tartus, the Saudi magazine *Al-MAJALLAH* reported Thursday, quoting diplomatic Arab sources.

The delegation asked the Syrian officials to allow the Soviet Navy to "operate freely" in Syrian waters, the London-based weekly said.

The objective of granting those facilities to the Soviets would be to monitor the movements of the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, it added.

The Syrians promised to consider the Soviet request after consultations with other Arab countries, *AL-MAJALLAH* went on.

Lebanese President Al-Jumayyil To Visit Damascus

JN111352 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1348 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday evening. Talks dealt with the national dialogue conference which convened in Geneva. The two sides agreed to the Lebanese president's visit to Damascus at the beginning of next week.

Visit Postponed; Al-Asad Ill

JN140558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] It has been decided to postpone Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus, which was scheduled to begin today, to a later time as President Hafiz al-Asad is suffering from appendicitis. He has been hospitalized for treatment.

Press Comments on U.S. Reconnaissance Sorties

JN110928 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 11 Nov (SANA) — In its editorial today headlined "Syria Is Determined To Retaliate Against Any Aggression," *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The flying of the U.S. fleets' planes over Syrian positions in Lebanon is seen as a dangerous sign of the imminent U.S.-Israeli aggression against Syria.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: It is necessary to link this sign with other signs. Reports from Washington and Tel Aviv are unanimous that the United States will very soon deal a military blow to Syria fully coordinated with Israel.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that Syria will not pull back or weaken before these U.S.-Israeli threats because it has unlimited capabilities for steadfastness and confrontation. This is what worries Washington and Tel Aviv.

ATH-THAWRAH notes that observers in the world have warned the United States of the danger of aggression against Syria. They described the situation in the Middle East as being different from that of Grenada. The newspaper asserts that this warning is justified because any U.S. military action in the region will result in large-scale developments in the region and the world which, consequently, will expose world peace and security to direct dangers.

In its editorial today, *AL-BA'TH* asserts that the military action against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces has been decided. The only thing that remains is a decision by the Reagan administration on whether the United States, Israel, or both will carry out this military action.

AL-BA'TH adds: The provocation yesterday by U.S. planes based on aircraft carriers off the Lebanese coast and the coinciding general mobilization in Israel have supported the opinion that the aggression against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces will be carried out by the United States and Israel.

AL-BA'TH continues: Syria does not exaggerate when it warns the fraternal Arabs of the plot being concocted against our Arab homeland. This proves the soundness of the Syrian stance that what the United States, Israel, and some other parties are preparing for, and whose objectives have become clear, not only threatens Syria and Lebanon, but also the entire Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Regardless of the possibilities, Syria will do its best to abort the imperialist-Zionist schemes and triumph over them.

Lebanese Papers Cited

JN111540 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut — Lebanese papers today highlight the Syrian air defense system's interception of U.S. planes over Lebanon.

AN-NIDA' highlights this incident under the headline "Syrian Air Defense Foiled the U.S. Picnic," and "Washington Carried Out a trial Test for the Aggression." It cites U.S. newspapers on the presence of aggressive plans against Syria.

AS-SAFIR and *AL-NAWAR* also highlight this incident on their front pages under the headline "U.S. Planes Are Subjected to Syrian Fire Over Lebanon." *AN-NAHAR* says: Damascus announces opening fire at U.S. planes over Lebanon and Washington shows this incident to be insignificant.

ASH-SHARQ highlights the incident under the headline "Overflying in Lebanon Is Not a Picnic." The Syrian air defense system yesterday intercepted the U.S. planes which flew over its positions.

In London, British papers also highlight this report on the Syrian antiaircraft missiles' interception of U.S. planes in Lebanese airspace.

The BBC cited *THE FINANCIAL TIMES* as saying that the Syrian Army in Lebanon is prepared to face a possible U.S. attack in light of the increasing tension between Syria and the United States.

U.S. 'Exploiting' Situation in Lebanon

JN121530 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil is expected to visit Washington, in accordance with the resolutions the Lebanese national reconciliation conference has adopted in Geneva, to discuss with U.S. President Reagan the Lebanese situation, the request of all Lebanese to liberate their territory from the Israeli invaders, and to discuss the Israeli-U.S. agreement which was signed on 17 May 1983 — an agreement whose major objective, as has been said, was not carried out by Israel, that is, the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Lebanese territories.

Despite the fact that the request that was made in Geneva was urgent, Washington's response to the Lebanese request was cool and negative to some extent. The U.S. Administration's protocol officials made justifications for not responding quickly to the Lebanese request. The most important of these justifications were U.S. President Ronald Reagan's readiness to leave for Japan and South Korea. The U.S. Administration, which was in a hurry to pressure the Lebanese regime and force it to sign the agreement which would achieve military, political, regional, and economic gains for Israel at the expense of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and Arab relations, seems not to be in a hurry to listen to the unified national Lebanese opinion calling for the evacuation of Israel from the Lebanese territories without harming Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and Arab relations. The U.S. Administration is not in a hurry to listen to Lebanese national opinion, which rejects any U.S. trusteeship over Lebanon, its destiny, relations, and foreign policy because Lebanese national opinion certainly contradicts what the United States wants from Lebanon.

The United States, which gave the green light to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, is exploiting the invasion operation in order to achieve comprehensive strategic U.S. objectives in the region. The United States wants to turn Lebanon into a hostage in its hands, a pressure card in the service of its policy, a base for its forces which are allied to Israel and which defend Israel, and for its military plans which are hostile to Syria and the Arab countries which reject U.S. and Israeli control and hegemony. The United States has turned Lebanese territory into a base for the U.S. and NATO forces and Lebanese waters into a field for the maneuvers of the U.S. fleet, which are ordered to threaten Syria and the Arab countries and to defend Israel. The U.S. Administration's adventure and insolence have reached the point where it has dispatched the planes of the U.S. fleet, which are stationed in Lebanese waters, to provoke the Syrian forces during a delicate period of military escalation in the region. This provocation poses dangers to Lebanon and peace in the region, and perhaps outside the region.

The Lebanese people, who reject, in every way, all attempts to turn their country into a base for U.S. and NATO forces and a satellite of U.S. policy, by no means agree to the serious U.S. adventures in their country and around it. The Lebanese people, along with Syria and all Arabs, call for withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from Lebanon because they realize that these forces have turned into fighting and occupying forces, into a negative element of domestic Lebanese life, and an obstacle which hampers the achievement of the Lebanese national accord and Lebanese action to evacuate the Israeli invaders from the Lebanese territories.

The U.S. Administration has strongly pressed the Lebanese regime to force it to accept the Israeli-U.S. agreement under the pretext that the agreement is a prelude to the complete evacuation of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. The Lebanese regime has fallen into the trap that was set for it. Months have passed since the signing of the agreement, and Israel has not withdrawn, and the United States has not exercised its known influence on Israel to force it to withdraw. Current facts do not indicate that the United States will pressure Israel and force it to withdraw from Lebanon. On the contrary, facts prove that the United States seeks to escalate the situation in Lebanon and the region, increase the possibilities of a military confrontation, and promote cooperation and coordination with Israel.

The U.S. option has collapsed in Lebanon. It has become clear that wagering on the United States in the face of Israel is a losing proposition because Israeli-U.S. relations are stronger than U.S. relations with any Arab side, regardless of the intentions of that side or its readiness to submit to Washington and its orders — As-Sadat's example is the best proof of that. Therefore, the efforts of Lebanon — national Lebanon and national unity — to search for a solution to the Lebanese issue, which is the evacuation of the Israeli invaders, cannot be achieved within the framework of the U.S. option or the protection of the U.S. eagle which seeks to impose control over the region. The collapse of the U.S. option does not mean that Lebanon does not possess cards which are sufficient for a move to evacuate the Israeli invaders and to restore sovereignty, independence, territory, and national unity. Lebanon possesses many cards that have great weight in the battle to evacuate the Israeli occupiers and the U.S. intruders. The most important of these cards are Lebanese national unity, the Lebanese national struggle against the occupation, the UN resolutions, world support, the Syrian card, and Arab solidarity.

Shared Security, Destiny With Lebanon Stressed

JN130854 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the caption "Concern For Syria Is Concern For Lebanon," the newspaper *TISHRIN* writes: Those who thought it possible to sever Lebanon from Syria and turn it into a base for imperialism and Zionism have undoubtedly been disappointed. The attempt failed and nationalist Lebanon, represented by its active forces and personalities, has triumphed for its Arabism and affiliation. It refused to be detached from its environs and carried arms in defense of its mission, role, and sovereignty over its territory.

The Lebanese events might be a good lesson for those who are embarking on the same schemes aimed at destroying the nation's unity and pushing the Arab countries one after another toward

Israel. Lebanon has witnessed an unprecedented massing of hostile forces. These forces are: the Israeli invasion army; the Multinational Forces, which went beyond their mission; the fleets off the Lebanese coast, which enjoy huge firepower; the Phalangist militias; and finally the authority's army, which the Americans implicated in a war against the homeland and people. All of these forces were supposed to score a splendid success over the Lebanese nationalist forces. However, the contrary occurred for the simple reason that the Lebanese people reject the U.S.-Israeli hegemony and the agreement imposed on them. They join ranks with Syria in a battle of common destiny.

Fleets alone do not make a victory nor intimidate a people, no matter how small they appear to be. No invading army can cancel a people's identity and a nation's struggle. Threats and armed interference, which did not intimidate the Lebanese people, will not intimidate Syria, which contributed to Lebanon's victory over its enemies. The Lebanese people will not remain idle in any aggression against Syria. The battle is one and the destiny is one, and the aggressors will be resisted by both the Lebanese and Syrian peoples.

TISHRIN adds: We say this after the national dialogue conference had a good beginning in Geneva and after it reached the conclusion that there is no alternative to canceling the imposed agreement. We say this at a time when U.S. and Israeli activities have acquired a seriously threatening with regard to Syria in an obvious attempt to foil the national dialogue, disrupt Lebanese accord, consecrate the ill-omened agreement, and maintain extremely tense relations between the two fraternal countries — or more precisely, between the Lebanese Government and Syria, because Syria has always refused to abandon its responsibility toward Lebanon.

We also say this when President al-Jumayyil is preparing to visit Syria for talks with President al-Asad. We hope that these talks will deal with the roots of the problem and find proper solutions to it so that those attempting to strike at relations between the twin peoples and twin countries can be foiled. During the past period those people succeeded in keeping the Lebanese Government not only away from the Lebanese people, their demands and aspirations, but also away from Syria and the Arab environs, even through Lebanon's power stems from its relations with Syria and the homeland and not from the deployed fleets, whose sole aim is to serve the Zionist scheme.

The paper asks: Should we recall that Syria has no conditions for Lebanon except that the country must restore its sovereignty and security and evacuate the invaders and foreign occupiers, and that Syria is offering all possible help in this regard? Should we recall that the Syrian forces are present in Lebanon to foil the Zionist-U.S. scheme and that they will withdraw immediately after Israel's unconditional withdrawal? Should we recall that Syria supported President al-Jumayyil when he publicly declared his national stands objecting to any Israeli gains, that Syria will support any sincere efforts to abrogate the agreement which poses dangers for both Lebanon and Syria, and that Syria will bless any steps leading to the entrenchment of internal national cohesion and termination of foreign interference? Concluding, *TISHRIN* says: *Certainly any concern for Lebanon and its future dictates concern for Syria and its future, and vice versa,* because the two countries' security is one and their destiny is one. The one who eventually antagonizes Syria antagonizes his people; the one who befriends it, befriends his people and nation.

Rumsfeld Task Linked With 'Imminent Aggression'

JN130602 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. President Reagan's special envoy, arrived in Paris last night within the framework of his new Middle East mission. Observers note that the first task of the U.S. special envoy, who was appointed 10 days ago, is timed with the U.S. and Israeli threats to launch an imminent aggression against Syria.

'Defamation, Distortion' Campaigns Foiled

JN131513 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time that the Israeli campaign of threats against Syria is escalating, the forces of agentry and treason continue to launch their mad campaign in an attempt to affect this country's steadfastness in the face of the largest hostile U.S.-NATO-Zionist concentration since World War II. Of course, the Arab citizen in any country is aware of the relationship between these two campaigns because they cannot be isolated or contradict each other. The premeditated timing of these two campaigns means that the target is Syria — its stand, it positions, and its decision. Therefore, the forces of agentry and treason, regardless of the justifications and excuses that they might give, cannot conceal the objectives of this campaign because Syria is the one which bears the responsibility for the struggle against the forces that are hostile to our nation. Moreover, Syria is the one which confronts the designs that are aimed at imposing imperialist control and Zionist expansion over our Arab region.

Of course, any hostility toward Syria's militant stand from any side is not confined to hostility toward the nation's objectives and rights; it is a stand at the side of the enemy and those who support it, a stand which intends to implement the enemies' schemes and follow their course. Undoubtedly, Syria, which has frequently been exposed to campaigns of defamation and distortion, is the same Syria which has always been able to foil those campaigns and to return them to those who stand behind them. No matter how hard these campaigns try in their attempts at defamation and distortion they will not be better than those that preceded them. Syria's firm and principled stand has been confirmed throughout the various difficult stages and circumstances that our pan-Arab struggle has faced. Had the Syrian stand not been firm and principled, the Israeli threats, the U.S.-NATO fleet concentrations, and the mad campaigns of the agents and traitors to distort Syria's stand would not have taken place. It is a well-coordinated and harmonious campaign launched by all sides hostile to the first pan-Arab issue, the Palestinian question. This coordination and harmony is clear in the mad campaign that the Jordanian regime and its follower 'Arafat are launching against Syria. This campaign comes at a time when the leaders of the

Zionist enemy are leveling threats of aggression against Syria, and at a time when the United States is attempting to spread the atmosphere of war in the region through attempts that are meant to increase its strategic deployment in the region and through the escalation of tension and provocation against Syria and its forces in Lebanon.

Syria is not an easy morsel or an easy prey as those enemies imagine. Syria has passed all tests and examinations throughout its militant history and proved that it is stronger than those enemies' attempts which are meant to affect its steadfastness and divert it from its stand. Syria is the one which checked the treasonous march to the Camp David bandwagon; Syria is the one that offered thousands of its sons as martyrs in the battles of heroism and honor against the Zionist enemy, whether in the October was or in Lebanon; Syria is the one that is bravely confronting the imperialist U.S. NATO expansion; and Syria is the one that stands as a lofty mountain in the face of the imperialist attempts to liquidate the Palestinian question through the rancorous agents and mercenaries. This is Syria, which has always been and will continue to be what its sons have known it to be — the Arab Syria, the heroic Syria, the generous Syria, and Al-Asad's Syria.

'Necessary Preprations' Made To Defend Arabs

JN101742 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Nov 83

[From "On the events" program]

[Text] Washington and Tel Aviv have completed their plans for aggression against Syria and Lebanon. Reports confirm that the massing of U.S. fleets in the eastern Mediterranean and the declaration of general mobilization in Israel are a prelude to this aggression. Here is our colleague Mustafa 'Ubayd's report on the subject:

Ari'el Sharon, former Zionist war minister and minister without portfolio in the current enemy government, has said that only U.S. military action can prevent Syria from what he termed controlling Lebanon. In an interview published in *THE NEW YORK POST*, Sharon urged the U.S. Administration to take the following steps as initial targets for an immediate and quick military action in Lebanon: First, regaining control of the Ash-Shuf Mountains near Beirut; second, expelling from West Beirut what Sharon called terrorists; third, terminating the Lebanese talks at the Geneva conference; and fourth, stationing UN observers as a buffer force between the Syrian and Israeli forces. Terrorist Sharon confirmed the Zionists' invasion plan for Lebanon by saying that the U.S.-Israeli military initiatives must be taken as quickly as possible. He said that Israel is running short of time. Therefore, Sharon's statements and the increasing U.S. and NATO concentrations in the eastern Mediterranean have strengthened the conviction that a U.S. reprisal in Lebanon is possible soon. This is what Western circles fear might happen. The FRG foreign minister has said that any U.S. attack on Syria in cooperation with Israel will be a real disaster for the West. He added that there is a great danger that other issues might quickly erupt in the Middle East. The newspaper *VOLKSSTIMME*, organ of the Austrian Communist Party, has warned the United States against direct military intervention in the Middle East. The paper said that Syria is not an easy morsel like the island of Grenada. The paper affirmed that the present grave situation in the Middle East is the result of the U.S. presence in the eastern Mediterranean. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, has affirmed in messages to heads of international organizations that the massing of U.S. and NATO sea and air fleets off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts constitutes the greatest danger to the cause of peace in the Middle East and the world because the region is now like a powderkeg that could explode at any moment as a result of the escalation of U.S. military activities.

After all this and the series of threats made by Washington and Tel Aviv against Syria under the cover of carrying out a reprisal, it becomes clear that the two strategic allies, the United States and Israel, have coordinated with NATO and completed plans for their premeditated aggression against Syria and Lebanon. They intend to carry out this aggression soon. Otherwise, how do we explain this U.S.-Israeli escalation in the region? And, what is the meaning of the massive callup of the Zionist enemy forces? All these military developments categorically prove that the joint U.S.-Israeli threats are only a prelude to a new aggression against Syria. This is why observers believe that the tension in the region is becoming increasingly dangerous every day due to the continuing U.S. military concentration in the Mediterranean, which confirm the possibility of direct U.S. military intervention in the Middle East against Syria.

If the two strategic allies, the United States and Israel, believe that striking at Syria is the only means to force an Arab surrender, they should know it does not fear threats. It has made all the necessary preparations to repulse the aggression when it occurs in order to defend its freedom and honor and the honor of the Arab nation.

Jordan Plays 'Conspiratorial' Role in Region

JN131122 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA) — In its editorial today, *ATH-THAWRAH* writes on the conspiratorial role of King Husayn's regime in its meetings with Zionist leaders to liquidate the Palestine cause and then in its meetings with Yasir 'Arafat. The newspaper asserts that the Jordanian regime's cards have been exposed and that they will not deceive the Arab strugglers and the true owners of the cause.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: Since the September massacres of 1970 and until the Jordanian option was presented as an idea and role, many facts have been exposed about the Jordanian regime's tasks of liquidating the Palestine cause and striking at the Palestinian people in order to usurp their role. *ATH-THAWRAH* notes the Jordanian regime's attempts to obtain Palestinian authorization to liquidate the cause.

The newspaper explains that 'Arafat's frequent contacts with officials of the Jordanian regime in connection with the Tripoli incidents have shown that there is a new conspiracy to liquidate the Palestine cause.

ATH-THAWRAH points out that Jordan, which ran away from confrontation with the enemy on the pretext that the road to Palestine passes through the Gulf and through Saddam Husayn's war against Iran, is today trying a new conspiratorial deception. It is pretending that the path toward Palestine passes through Tripoli and through 'Arafat's conspiracy and his attempts to arouse sedition and concoct massacres against Tripoli's sons and the Palestinian people.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that the Jordanian regime's cards have been exposed. The Jordanian regime's sudden concern about the Palestine cause and its people's struggle can hide neither the poisonous dagger with which it stabbed the Palestine cause nor its readiness to kill it.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that Syria, which is confronting forces of aggression and retaliating against U.S. and Israeli schemes, is waiting for the forces of aggression and their agent tools and will not allow any harm to or relinquishment of the central issue of the Arab struggle.

Al-Kasm Addresses People's Assembly 12 Nov

JN122156 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held a meeting this evening under its speaker, Mahmud az-Zu'bi, and in the presence of Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and the ministers.

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm delivered the government's statement on the development plan and the promotion of production for 1983. He asserted that the influential initiatives to implement the drafted economic and social policy have provided the national steadfastness with an economic and social base and managed to keep Syria a constant power that makes up for any Arab weakness and constitutes a guaranteed replacement for all those withdrawing from the forward confrontation line.

Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm stressed that Syria's greater and contant objective has been and still is to transform Syria's defensive force into a strategic force equal to that of the enemy's force. This can be done by continuing to develop the Armed Forces' high preparedness in the fields of training, armament, and readiness. Syria has achieved great progress in this regard.

With this realization, the Syrian Arab people stand as one man and one heart behind the leadership of militant President Hafiz al-Asad to confront all kinds of threats and to warn that any aggression against Syria will have very bad consequences for the aggressors. We in this homeland are determined to prove our free will in the construction of the future stemming from the realization of our integrity and our faith in the Arab nation's objectives.

13th Anniversary of Corrective Movement Marked

JN131442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Provinces — Syria's provinces have begun their celebrations of the 13th anniversary of the glorious corrective movement led by Comrade Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. They inaugurated more vital projects and held mass popular rallies. Accompanied by a number of senior party and state officials, Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, laid the foundation stone of the new headquarters of the Ba'th Party branch in Aleppo amid cheers praising the party and the leader.

Comrade Mashariqah delivered a constructive speech in which he renewed a pledge to the party and the leadership to continue the struggle. He then talked about the most important current Arab and international events, referring to the increasing role of our great party in confronting the challenges. He also stressed our country's principled and firm positions against the Camp David accords, the Zionist invasion, the agreement of submission, and its support for the nationalist forces and National Salvation Front, which proved their ability to confront all the imperialist and Zionsit challenges. He also added that the the national dialogue conference, in which Syria played an effective role, has yielded its fruits as a result of the recognition by all parties of Lebanon's Arabism.

Comrade Mashariqah concluded his constructive speech by saying that our country will continue its struggle to liberate the occupied territories and realize our masses' aspirations to unity, freedom, and socialism.

David Levi Says Soviets To Leave Syria Soon

TA130849 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Nov 83 p 3

[Report by Yehuda Goren and Yehudit Zilberstein]

[Excerpt] "We have reliable information that the Soviets are going to leave Syria within 1 and 1/2 to 2 months. The Israeli Government is not indifferent to these reports. Past experience generally indicates that something happens after the Soviets leave a place," Minister David Levi stated last night hinting at the departure of Soviet experts from Egypt on the eve of the Yom Kippur War.

Minister Levi was speaking last night in Nahariyyah at a meeting of Likud members elected as mayors and heads of local authorities in the municipal elections. Levi added that the Cabinet will soon hold a special debate on Syria and its intentions. The Defense Ministry is currently drawing up a position paper in anticipation of this Cabinet debate. Minister Levi noted that at present Syria's intentions seem to be aggressive.

Further Remarks

TA130908 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Nov 83 p 2

[Report on speech by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi in Nahariyyah before newly-elected Likud municipal officials by Tzvi Tal on 12 November]

[Excerpt] Addressing himself to the political and military situation, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said: "We should be very careful. When the Russians themselves announce that they are getting out of Syria, one should be alert. There was a time when the Russians said that they were leaving Egypt and we should remember what happened then. We are doing everything necessary to be steadfast and alert. We do not want war; we want an arrangement in Lebanon. We are not in Lebanon to establish order; we are not the policeman of the Middle East. We are only looking after our security. And, on this issue, we do not listen to anyone and we are not deterred by anything because our future and our existence are at stake."

Kimche Comments on Soviet Support for Syria

TA141207 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus is convinced that Israel will not attack it because it is confident of its strength and the backing of the Soviet Union. This was stated a short time ago by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche to members of the Israeli-German Friendship Association. Our correspondent Yotam Yaqir reports on Kimche's remarks:

[Begin recording] The Syrians do not hesitate to walk a tightrope because there is a safety net underneath them, a net of confidence or, in other words, the aid and support of the Soviet Union. This was stated this morning by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. Kimche added: To our regret, Syrian talk about Israel's annihilation is not mere talk. The Syrians are spending increasing sums of money to achieve military supremacy over Israel.

During the negotiations over the agreement with Lebanon, Kimche disclosed, U.S. envoy Philip Habib time and again promised that once the agreement was signed the Syrians would also leave Lebanon. However, when the agreement was signed the Syrians reneged on the promises they made to the Americans.

Referring to another issue, 'Arafat's situation in Tripoli, Kimche said that from Israel's point of view the PLO is more or less dead. However, he pointed out, it does not matter to Israel whether the one trying to annihilate us is 'Arafat, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], or any other Abu. What counts is that they should reach the conclusion that they must take the road of negotiations rather than the path of terrorism.

The director general of the Foreign Ministry added that what matters most from Israel's standpoint is that the West and Germany do not sell weapons to Saudi Arabia. The latter, Kimche said, has declared a holy war to destroy Israel, and weapons sold to Saudi Arabia would ultimately be used against us. [end recording]

Shamir Grants Interview to FRG Newspaper

TA141226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1120 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Interview with FRG correspondent David Witzthum by 'Amiqam Rothman by telephone — live]

[Text] [Rothman] And on the telephone, from Bonn, is our correspondent David Witzthum. Shalom.

[Witzthum] Shalom, shalom.

[Rothman] We have heard that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has granted his first interview to the German media. He spoke of current affairs, affairs we discussed on the radio today. What did the interview deal with; what were the published details?

[Witzthum] Well, *DIE WELT*, Axel Springer's conservative paper, came out today with the headline: the first interview granted by Yitzhaq Shamir, not only to a German paper, but to any media organ outside Israel. In any case, the headline of the interview is: "Israel Opposes the Expected Deal Between Germany and Saudi Arabia." But let's return to this a little later.

First of all, Shamir says several things about the Syrians. The prime minister says: There is no immediate danger of war; however, we must be very alert. And, he says, the blow directed by Syria at the PLO points to its intention to prepare an attack against Israel, to use the PLO as a tool to attack Israel. Al-Asad wants full control over the PLO so as to prepare it for an expected war with Israel. He does not want this attack too soon, but wants to prepare things properly and then he will use the PLO as a tool for the expected attack against Israel. But, as said, this attack is not imminent.

[Rothman] And what about other issues, the issue of the German arms deals and Germany's stand on the conflict?

[Witzthum] Well, yes, as for Germany's stand on the conflict, I learned that the chancellor's visit to Israel will not take place this year, as it was initially thought, but in the spring. The exact date has not yet been published; the exact date is not yet known. However, the visit will take place in the spring. The prime minister, in the interview, says that he will be very glad to receive the chancellor, however, he is concerned about the German intention to establish military cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

As for this military cooperation, the full details have not been published yet; however, it seems, and this is what is being whispered in Bonn, that the deal is not a specific deal regarding certain arms but a big military deal, whose details will be finalized later, and this is the first military deal, the first military cooperation agreement initiated by a German chancellor. A U.S. diplomat in Bonn told me that Bonn nurtured false hopes in the Arab world regarding this cooperation. This American says: We will have to pay the political price, and Germany will do business.

In the meantime, it is said here that the chancellor did not reportthe details of this cooperation either to his Foreign Ministry or to the Bundestag. On the contrary, the chancellor is embarrassed and is trying to downgrade the importance of the gains made in Saudi Arabia. *DER SPIEGEL*, in today's issue, says this cooperation will be extensive, and this is exactly what worries Shamir in the interview he granted to *DIE WELT*.

David Levi Reiterates Warning to Syria

TA110803 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Nov 83 p 12

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by unnamed correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: All last week, there was talk about a possible flareup along the Syrian border. Does the Cabinet truly believe that such a danger exists?

Answer: This fear exists in view of the unprecedented buildup of the Syrians on the Golan Heights and in the Al-Biqa' with massive amounts of arms and other means supplied to it by the Soviet Union. We have warned Syria that we will not tolerate moves or facts that could endanger our security or undermine stability. I hope they got the message. With all our desire to prevent a conflagration, we must always remember that this is a regime that could exploit an incident or an atmosphere of tension to promote domestic and inter-Arab strategies. As we have seen in the past, such situations could unintentionally deteriorate to dangerous dimensions. Israel should not take the chance and ignore the Syrian threat.

Question: What do you think about American-Israeli strategic cooperation opposite a Soviet-Syrian front?

Answer: In a situation of deep Soviet intervention and involvement in Syria, with all of its dangerous derivatives, stronger links and greater coordination between the United States and Israel would serve both these countries' interests. I am glad the United States has recognized this and is taking action in this direction.

Question: The impression is that the United States has become bogged down in Lebanon?

Answer: If indeed the provocation of the United States and the Multinational Force is being carried out with Syrian inspiration, these forces and the countries that sent them are bound to reach the proper conclusions, which will be in accordance with their commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty. There is evidence, not a just presumption, that the terrorist actions are being perpetrated by extremist Shi'ites with the backing, or at least guidance, of Syria.

Question: We once said we would not leave Lebanon before the last of the terrorists had departed. Are we presently waiting for the last Shi'ite to leave?

Answer: Israel is interested in an arrangement [hesder] in Lebanon that will entail such conditions that guarantee the security of our northern settlements and prevent a situation in which Lebanon again serves as the base for aggressive actions against Israel. This objective requires coordination with the United States. As far as we are concerned, the political path is the most desirable. Israel is not threatening military moves, but on the other hand it will not tolerate a Syrian military threat to sabotage this goal.

Question: What must be done to thaw the cold peace with Egypt?

Answer: The two countries have many joint interests, and only through meetings and a thorough discussion of the common ground will it be possible to fortify the normalization process which has somewhat slowed down, not through any fault of ours. I will not err if I say that Egypt, too, is slowly understanding that both in terms of its own interests as well as in terms of the desire for stability, it must strive for renewed contacts with Israel. Although it has been called a cold peace, the ties between Egypt and Israel are more stable than those involving any other two countries in the region.

Question: Rumor has it that the prime minister will give you the foreign affairs portfolio. How do things stand right now?

Answer: There is an understanding between me and the prime minister over this issue. The matter will be resolved when the time comes.

Inquiry Finds No Negligence in Tyre Incident

TA111850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The Israeli officers responsible for security at the military headquarters in Tyre were not guilty of negligence with regard to the car bomb attack. This is a conclusion of the inquiry commission set up after the disaster. The commission found that the responsible officers had taken precautions following the car bomb attacks on the American and French military headquarters in Beirut. For example, concrete blocks had been placed on the road leading to the Tyre headquarters, but the attacker had managed to maneuver his truck between the blocks. After the explosion, the blocks were pushed aside by rescue workers and it was then mistakenly reported that they had never been placed on the road.

The commission report was presented this morning to Defense Minister Moshe Arens by commission head General Amnon Reshef and Chief of Staff General Moshe Levi. The report will be presented to the government on Sunday, 13 November.

Further Report

TA122048 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] The report of the inquiry commission looking into the Tyre disaster will be submitted to the Cabinet at its coming meeting on Monday. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky learned from initial incomplete information contained in the report that the IDF forces prepared for the possibility that kamikaze terrorists would try to penetrate bases with a booby-trapped car. The commission found that following the Beirut disaster the IDF realigned itself, drew lessons, and adopted a number of precautions on the bases and outside them to prevent a similar disaster. Despite the preventive measures, the commission says, it is a fact that the booby-trapped car managed to enter the base.

The commission found that, in general, orderly commands were passed on and instructions were carried out as planned, as was manifest, for instance, in the firing at the car which was moving toward the Tyre military authorities' building. It is not clear whether the commission is dealing in detail with the responsibility of commanders and soldiers in the area.

Our military correspondent notes that the committee also dealt with the broad aspects of the security problem and the IDF's preparations to tackle the new types of terrorism. In addition, the commission looked into the work of the IDF's rescue units following the disaster and concluded that they operated effectively and efficiently.

Communique on 14 Nov Cabinet Session Released

TA141210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Communique read by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor at the end of Cabinet session on 14 November — recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet session was held on Monday this week because most Cabinet members attended memorial services to mark the 10th anniversary of David Ben-Gurion's death yesterday.

At the Cabinet meeting today, the defense minister reported on recent events in Judaea and Samaria.

IDF Intelligence Chief Major General Ehud Baraq reviewed the PLO's situation in the wake of the fighting in Tripoli.

The chairman of the committee appointed by the chief of staff to investigate the attack in Tyre, Major General Amnon Reshef, submitted the committee's report to the Cabinet and replied to questions by the ministers on this issue.

The defense minister announced that the chief of staff had instructed the committee to complete checking certain issues. Upon the completion of this check, the Cabinet will again discuss the issue.

The prime minister and foreign minister today reviewed the visit to Egypt by the director general and legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry.

Today the Cabinet heard reviews of the situation in Syria, its policy, and its military strength. In the wake of these reviews, the Cabinet will hold a debate next week.

Today's meeting was declared a session of the Ministerial Committee on Security affairs due to the large number of security issues that was discussed.

Further Details

TA141522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Today ministers criticized the committee that investigated the attack in Tyre because its recommendations were limited, and it did not determine responsibility for what occurred, if there was responsibility. The ministers also said there was fear of a coverup considering that the IDF was investigating itself. At the session, Minister Mordekhay Tzipori attacked the conclusions of the report, disagreed with the committee's recommendations, and proposed alternative recommendations.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the prime minister proposed omitting from the Cabinet communique the fact that the ministers had heard reports about what was happening in Syria because these are issues that should not be discussed. However, Minister Ari'el Sharon pointed out that the matter had already been broadcast this morning by the Voice of Israel.

Minister David Levi wanted to know if suitable measures had been taken in the Golan Heights, in view of the Syrians' concentrations, because we should not wait until the completion of the security discussion by the Cabinet next week. The deputy prime minister was told that the security establishment was taking all required measures. The defense minister also reported on the latest events in Judaea and Samaria.

Deputy Chief of Staff on Results of Callup

TA101842 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Interview With Deputy Chief of Staff Major General David 'Ivri by Doron Rosenblum; place and date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Rosenblum] General 'Ivri, this morning the public callup exercise was concluded. Was it successful?

['Ivri] Generally speaking, it can definitely be said that the exercise was crowned with success. Success in this case is measured in accordance with our expectations. I think we certainly obtained good results as far as our expectations are concerned.

[Rosenblum] Did the public respond to the call satisfactorily?

['Ivri] Yes, I definitely think so. Not just the public, for that matter, but the various media as well, and the units, the soldiers themselves, all responded.

[Rosenblum] Has the IDF's Operations Branch already reached preliminary conclusions regarding the exercise?

['Ivri] Not yet. We are currently engaged in collecting data, processing and registering the data. Our supervisory system — we have established units to supervise and control the conclusions — is now in the investigative stage, compiling data and comments, and slowly but surely we are making progress in the process of investigating and compiling the data which will ultimately provide us with the lessons to be learned.

[Rosenblum] How soon will you have the preliminary conclusions as well as the possibility of implementing them?

['Ivri] Preliminary conclusions, at the unit level, were already reached and implemented in the course of the exercise itself, whether it was a matter of forms, how to fill them out, and so on. These are not unimportant, you know. At the General Staff level, I estimate that we will reach the final stage of investigation in 10 days.

[Rosenblum] In a talk before the exercise you said that messages, signals had been sent to the neighboring Arab countries making it clear to them that this was not a real mobilization, so as not to cause them to panic. In your opinion, taking Syria's mobilization into account, did these messages help? Was there any kind of feedback to balance them?

['Ivri] Yes, there was. We are aware of the fact that there was a callup exercise — I do not really know what to call it — in Syria. So there was a balance or, if you like, the messages reached their destination. I cannot say how they were evaluated, but I would think that now that the exercise is over, people will at least realize that we let them know, and that this was just an exercise, as we had planned.

[Rosenblum] Were there any considerations other than the economic considerations you spoke of last time?

['Ivri] Naturally. To begin with, there were the economic considerations — how to have the least possible adverse effect on the economy and not waste money. Consequently, the timing, the start of the exercise, was such that it did the least harm to the country's working hours. We made use of the evening hours, so as not to affect the following working day. That is an example of the economic considerations. On the other hand, the defense considerations, the implementation of the exercise and its conduct were decided by us in the course of our evaluation of the security defense situation: When would the right time be and when not; how it would affect certain tensions — we took all of this into account. And so, even though you take certain risks, you try and construct the kind of scenario that will cause the least amount of deterioration.

[Rosenblum] Did the Syrian mobilization have any impact on the timing? Was there any thought of postponing the exercise because of the Syrian mobilization?

['Ivri] I do not know if there were any such thoughts. This fact was taken into account as one of the elements.

[Rosenblum] In conclusion, can it be said that the IDF is now better organized for war, that we can now call up our reserves within a matter of hours, and that they are mobilized in the best possible way?

['Ivri] There is no doubt in my mind that this exercise has most certainly contributed to improved fitness and an improvement of a public callup, and I think that as a result it will prove even better in due course, as the lessons learned and conclusions drawn are implemented. That is, of course, a matter of time.

Reagan Approval of Lavi Project Aid Reported

TA122030 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in Washington Elimelekh Ram reports that next week President Reagan will approve the decision to allocate to Israel $250 million for the Lavi project. This evening Israeli sources in Washington called the congressional decision on this a great achievement. According to the decision, in the coming year Israel will receive from the United States $1.7 billion in military aid, in addition to $910 million in economic aid.

Security sources in Israel say that the U.S. Congress decision on the Lavi issue will help the Defense Ministry cope with the cut in its budget. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that converting the dollars into shekels will make possible the transfer of funds originally slated for the Lavi project to other security projects which were either going to be canceled or limited in scope. Our military correspondent reports that at stake are $250 million for 2 fiscal years in Israel which means, practically speaking, the addition of 13 billion shekels for the budget for 2 years.

Defense Ministry Budget Cut

TA132023 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] U.S. aid for the development of the Lavi aircraft will not nullify, or decrease, the cut which is planned in the defense budget, a cut amounting to 16 billion shekels. Our correspondent 'Oded Shahar reports that the Finance Ministry demands that the surplus money in the budget as a result of the U.S. aid be spent on development and investment projects only, and not used for day-to-day expenditures. Our correspondent has learned from the Finance Ministry that the Defense Ministry will be required to submit to the government a detailed plan of cuts, including a cut in manpower, equipment, and weapons systems.

Arens Deplores Road Security in Territories

TA130901 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0855 GMT 13 Nov 83

["Defense Ministry Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 13 Nov — Defense Minister Moshe Arens this morning stated that the state of security on the roads in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District is intolerable and that the defense establishment would not allow it to persist. The minister made these remarks at a meeting with representatives of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Security on the roads in these areas, which has recently worsened, was discussed at the meeting. The minister added that within the framework of the resources available, the defense establishment will do everything possible to reduce this problem to the minimum. The minister explained that the defense establishment will continue to proceed according to the norms embraced by the State of Israel and the IDF and he called on the Jewish settlers to join in this effort.

Denies Published Report

TA141128 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1115 GMT 14 Nov 83

["Defense Ministry Spokesman's Announcement — Denial" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 14 Nov (ITIM) — Contrary to the report in *DAVAR* this morning, it has been reported from the defense minister's office that Minister Arens never said that he intends to introduce new electronic devices that would help stop the harassment of vehicles in Judaea and Samaria. The remarks to this effect attributed to the minister are totally unfounded.

'No Progress' Reported in Talks With Egypt

TA101813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Official spokesmen in Cairo have said that in the talks held by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and his deputy no progress was made. They said the differences of opinion had remained as they were on both the Tabah issue and the matter of Egypt's demand for a timetable to be set for the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

David Kimche told foreign correspondents in Cairo that both sides had promised not to relax their attempts to improve the links. The director general of the Foreign Ministry is to return to Israel tonight.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer points out that it had been clear in advance to both the Egyptians and the Israelis that the talks in Cairo had no chance of success and the Egyptians only agreed to receive Kimche because of U.S. pressure.

Egypt Not To Offer Political Asylum to 'Arafat

TA110513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Egypt will not offer political asylum or refuge to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. This was learned by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer from authoritative sources in Cairo.

The director general of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will come to Israel soon to continue the political dialogue between the two countries in the wake of the talks Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche held in Cairo. Kimche will report to the prime minister about the talks this morning.

Our political correspondent reports that Egypt persists in its refusal to return the ambassador, who left Israel during the Peace for Galilee war.

Al-Asad Allows Identification of IDF Soldiers

TA130521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned that the Syrian president has recently authorized representatives of the Red Cross to attempt to identify Israeli soldiers who were buried in Damascus after the war in Lebanon.

U.S. Administration officials told their Israeli counterparts that this could be regarded as a signal indicating Al-Asad's willingness not to shut the door to practical talks between Syria and the United States and, perhaps, also to a certain degree of contact with Israel.

Two Arab Youths Killed in 'Violent' Riots

TA122009 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Two Arabs were killed today in the course of violent rioting in Tulkarm. A border police force opened fire at rioters who threw stones and heavy objects at vehicles. In the afternoon, the security forces detained three Arabs who are suspected of having taken part in the rioting. According to military sources, the three admitted during their interrogation that they had organized provocations yesterday against the security forces in order to cause unrest in the town.

Emergency Meeting

TA132019 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The defense establishment will exercise a firmer policy in Judaea and Samaria in order to curb the deterioration in the security situation there. An emergency meeting was held at the

Defense Ministry this afternoon. Participating in it were the defense minister, the coordinator of activities in the territories, the head of the Civilian Administration, and the chief of staff.

In a TV interview, the coordinator of activities in the territories, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, said that the border police forces which were active in Tulkarm yesterday did not deviate from instructions. Our correspondent in the territories Gil Sadan reports:

[Begin videotape] [Sadan] The full story of yesterday's incidents in Tulkarm is not yet clear. As far as we know, there was violent rioting in the street, in the course of which stones and heavy objects were thrown at border policemen. The border policemen pursued five masked youths, firing warning shots all the time. According to the local inhabitants, the youths fled into a side alley, where the firing in which the two were killed occurred. The border policemen claim their lives were threatened, while the families of the dead youths deny this.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Until the border policemen reached the point of firing — and this firing, I am convinced, was under no circumstances intended to kill these two youths — many actions had been taken. However, beyond a certain point, they had no choice other than to fire.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] There are in fact two different reactions, different in their sensitivity and intensity. On the one hand, you have the youths who are seized by a state of despair, frustration, and helplessness. The dream, the legend called the PLO, is gradually being shattered before their very eyes. The ideas of unity of ranks and independent decisions, as well as the hope that the PLO would be their savior are going up in smoke, and their reaction is clear and understandable. As for the adult population, an essentially different process is taking place. Here we are talking of a process of sobering up and an ability to reach conclusions on things pertaining to the road which the PLO has led them down so far. The result here is an increasing readiness to enter a process which is essentially one of pragmatism based on acceptance.

[Sadan] Are the military authorities, the body which you head, adopting a firmer policy toward the Arab population?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] There is no doubt that the military authorities have adopted a firmer policy regarding all the disturbances and the renewed, present form of violence. The military authorities have adopted a very firm policy since, in my opinion, the lack of it will result in unnecessary escalation [last word in English] in which the ones hurt will be mainly the civilian population. [end videotape]

Herzog Leaves for U.S.; To Meet Reagan 22 Nov

TA140716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] President Herzog left this morning for an official visit to the United States. At the airport he said that the aim of his visit is to meet the leaders of Jewish organizations; however, if political subjects come up, he will represent Israel.

President Herzog is to make a speech at the UN General Assembly in 2 days. Next Tuesday he is to meet President Reagan; altogether he will stay in the United States 10 days.

Defense Minister Arens is to visit the United States twice within the next few weeks. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Minister Arens will leave at the end of the month, together with the prime minister, for a 3-day visit to discuss strategic cooperation. He will later return to the United States to receive an honorary doctorate from the Yeshiva University of New York.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid Returns From European Tour

LD132336 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN, his wife and the accompanying delegation, returned home at 1730 today after a visit to France and Italy.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers 'Arafat Safe Residence

LD101418 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Nov (JANA) — Within the framework of the efforts which Libya is making to halt the fratricide between the Palestinian brothers, the brother leader of the revolution has asked Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to come to the Jamahiriyah and reside there instead of taking refuge somewhere else, with Libya guaranteeing his safety and his protection and his right to defend himself over any Palestinian or Arab issue, thus ending the bloody conflict between the brothers and comrades-in-arms so that the rifle can be directed toward the enemy.

'Arafat Agrees to Move

LD110045 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] JANA has learned that Yasir 'Arafat has responded to the call addressed to him by the brother leader and has agreed to move to the Jamahiriyah in order to spare Palestinian blood and end the bloody conflict that is now taking place among brothers and comrades in arms in the Palestinian revolution. Consultations are now underway to organize and secure Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in the Jamahiriyah. The brother leader asked Yasir 'Arafat to come to the Jamahiriyah and reside here instead of taking refuge elsewhere, with the Jamahiriyah guaranteeing his safety ahd protection and his right to defend himself with regard to Arab or Palestinian questioning. This is part of the Jamahiriyah's efforts to end the fighting among Palestinian brothers and to bring an end to the bloody conflict among brothers and comrades in arms so that all guns can be pointed at the enemy.

Fatah Factions on 'Arafat

LD131531 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Factions of Palestinian resistance in the Jamahiriyah have issued a political statement about the criticial and decisive position in which our Arab homeland finds itself, exposed to the most dangerous imperialist-Zionist-reactionary assault. The factions have warned that this assault aims to defeat our Arab masses and to tighten imperialist control over the Arab homeland and subsequently abort all achievements gained in some areas of struggle. The statement has made it clear that the intensification of this assault has come in the wake of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in the shadow of a sick Arab reality. This invasion is now being transformed into a display of American naval fleets and its Air Force in more than one Arab country and into the massive imperialist military concentration over the Lebanese territory and in its territorial waters and facing the Syrian shoreline.

The statement of the factions of the Palestinian resistance in Jamahiriyah has stated that the Palestinian right wing headed by 'Arafat and Al-Wazir is causing more armed battles in the Lebanese north in favor of the slower course and to serve the capitulation plan and schemes put forward by America in the region. The statement has accused 'Arafat's group of holding back on a national decision and totally ignoring collective leadership and the role of the establishments of the liberation organization and the decisions of the Palestinian National Council. They are also strengthening their relations with the reactionary Arab regimes, including the Egyptian regime, while fabricating differences with progressive Arab countries. The statement also has accused the Palestinian right wing of rejecting the endeavors of the leadership of the revolutionary uprising in Fatah and the factions in alliance with it which adhere to democratic dialogue through the legitimate Palestinian structures for effecting revolutionary reform inside Fatah.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Statement on U.S. 'Madness'

LD110954 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Nov (JANA) — The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement yesterday expressing deep anxiety over the developments the world is witnessing as a result of continuous escalation by the United States which is threatening world peace and exposing it to danger. Here follows the text of the statement:

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison is following the mad development of the U.S. Administration's policy with increasing anxiety and it has warned the world of the dangers which are threatening world peace. In this respect the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison is placing on the record one measure after another by the American Administration which confirms its intention to light the war-fuse and to push humanity toward the abyss. Among these measures are:

1. Increasing and continuous massing of American fleets and aircraft in the Arab region, especially in Lebanese territory and facing Syrian and Lebanese territory.

2. Its military intervention in the conflict between the Lebanese factions in addition to its obvious obstruction of any opportunities for national reconciliation among the Lebanese.

3. Its intervention in the conflict taking place between factions of the Fatah organization by means of its aircraft reconnoitering the fighting zones and its clear threat to intervene in this fighting, in addition to its clear harassment of Syria to draw it into a military confrontation and routine flights by its aircraft over Al-Biqa'. We know that these routine flights take place in the airspace of the country itself or in international airspace, and since when have these routine flights been permitted over the territory of others?

4. The U.S. military occupation of Grenada and its setting up of an agent government against the will of the people of little Grenada.

5. (?The flow of) definite information that the Reagan administration is planning to occupy Nicaragua and El Salvador in the same way as it occupied Grenada.

This irresponsible move by the American forces and the movements of its aircraft and fleets in the region and in Central America confirm without doubt the desire to dominate the will of the peoples and to confront their active forces; moreover, there is a great possibility that this confrontation could lead to a conflict between the two major powers. Therefore, the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison appeals to the international community to put an end to this irresponsible policy of the American Administration and to understand the dangers which face humanity as a result of the madness of American power; and for the international community to demand that the United States should stop interfering in the peoples' internal affairs whether in the Arab nation or in Central America. Finally, the international community is responsible for removing the fuse from this explosive situation, which is the result of American madness, by adopting all necessary measures aimed at removing the means of American war and destruction from the areas of tension in the Arab world and in Central America.

Security Council Urged To Discuss U.S. Fleets

LD111204 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1005 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Nov (JANA) — The Jamahiriyah is conducting extensive contacts with the member states of the UN Security Council to convene an emergency session of the Council to discuss the explosive situation in the Arab region arising from the amassing of fleets of the American Administration and of NATO countries along the shores of Syria and Lebanon, which truly constitutes the gravest of dangers, which might explode at any time, exploding with it the entire world. The Council should shoulder its responsibility for defending peace and (?adopt a responsible) measure to confront the American aggressive escalation in the region so that the population of the world will not be dragged into a catastrophe.

Reportage on Visit of Romanian Defense Minister

Delivers Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD111628 Tripoli JANA in English 1000 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 6, Nov 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The revolution's leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met yesterday with Constantin Olteanu, member of the Romanian Communist Party's Central Committee and minister of defence, who delivered a message from President Nicolae Ceaucescu [words indistinct] and the two countries efforts against the U.S. military escalation in the Middle East of the Mediterranean. The leader, in return, handed him a letter to President Ceaucescu, in which he expressed his deep concern over the gravity of the situation as a result of the massing of U.S. fleet opposite Libyan and Syrian shores with total disregard to world peace and security. He said in his message that such irrational acts might lead the whole world to a regretable disaster and the outbreak of a third world war.

Talks With Jabir

LD101523 Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 5, Nov 10, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces held a session of talks yesterday with Constantin Olteanu, Romanian minister of national defence and member of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party within the bilateral cooperation relations. [sentence as received]. The delegations of both sides attended the talks.

Visits Chemical Plant

LD101844 Tripoli JANA in English 1736 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli Safar 5, Nov 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The minister of national defence and member of Central Committee of the Communist Party in Romania, Constantin Olteanu this morning visited Abu Karmash chemical industrial complex.

The guest toured various departments of the project expressing his admiration for such huge industrial achievements.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

LD121728 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1402 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Nov (JANA) — Minutes of a cooperation agreement between Libya and the Socialist Republic of Romania was signed in Tripoli at midday today. The minutes of agreements was signed by Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces; and Constantin Olteanu, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and defence minister of Romania.

The minutes of the agreement include the basis for continuing, bolstering, and strengthening bilateral relations to realize the interests of the Libyan and Romanian peoples. The signing ceremony was attended by the chiefs of staffs of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and the delegation accompanying the Romanian defense minister.

Departs 12 November

LD121732 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 12 Nov (JANA) — Major General Constantin Olteanu, Romanian defense minister; and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli at midday today after a visit to Libya, during which they held a series of talks aimed at developing and strengthening bilateral relations.

MOROCCO

Egyptian Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-day Visit

LD132237 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2141 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Rabat, 13 Nov (Mena) — The deputy Egyptian prime minister and foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, arrived in Rabat this evening on a 3-day visit to Morocco. He and members of his delegation were welcomed by the Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta. On arrival, 'Ali said, "I am happy to visit fraternal Morocco within the framework of fraternal relations between the two Arab countries and within the frameowrk of African countries." He added,"I bring with me a message from President Husni Mubarak for King Hassan II, which deals with cooperation between the two countries in all fields. M'hamed Boucetta, in his welcoming speech, said that he shares 'Ali's desire for the consolidation of relations between the two fraternal countries. Referring to the message Kamal Hasan 'Ali brought with him for King Hassan II, Boucetta said that its content will be the pivot of the discussions the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister will hold during his visit to Morocco.

Replying to a question about the current events on the Palestinian arena, Boucetta said that these are problems now occupying the mind of every Arab. We, Egypt and Morocco, side with the Palestinian people until they retrieve their rights. He expressed his hope that reason will prevail so that it becomes possible to retrieve the usurped Arab lands. King Hassan II is expected to received Kamal Hasan 'Ali on Monday.

Morocco To Resume Diplomatic Relations With Egypt

GF121316 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Nov 83 P 1

[Text] *AL-WATAN* has learned from sources close to the royal court in Rabat that Morocco will officially resume its diplomatic relations with Egypt in the following few weeks. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian foreign minister, is expected to arrive in Rabat shortly with a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to King Hassan II of Morocco thanking him for Morocco's recent stand of support for Egypt. The message will also deal with the extremely serious Arab situations in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf in light of the incidents in Tripoli and Lebanon and with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war. *AL-WATAN* has also learned that King Hassan's adviser Ahmed Bensouda will be appointed Morocco's ambassador in Cairo. The sources also disclosed that Iraq and Jordan are also preparing to resume their diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Foreign Minister Boucetta on Saharan Issue

LD111749 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] New York, Nov 11, (MAP). — "Our refusal to hold direct negotiations with what is called 'the Polisario' (an Algerian backed group of mercenaries fighting Morocco for control over the Sahara) has been well understood by many delegations to the UN, direct negotiations with these mercenaries would constitute a recognition of their 'movement' and would provide it a character of representativity which it lacks," stated on Thursday Mr M'hamed Boucetta,Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs. In a statement to MAP bureau in Washington, Mr Boucetta who is leading the Moroccan delegation to the UN Fourth Commission-Decolonization Committee meeting here made an assessment of the committee's works and reaffirmed Morocco's stance regarding the settlement of the Sahara issue.

In reality, said Mr Boucetta, the Fourth Commission has examined all issues on its agenda and not only the Sahara problem, as it continues to deal with economic problems in the Third World, the Namibian issue and other problems. But regarding the Sahara, Mr Boucetta added, I believe that Morocco's stance, such it has been previously explained by King Hassan II of Morocco before the UN General Assembly and reaffirmed by myself during the debates of the Fourth Commission, has enabled many countries to understand the firm position of Morocco, for it responds exactly to the appeals launched to Morocco concerning its commitment to hold a referendum in line with the conditions set by Africa.

He added that the interventions of the Sahrawi groups representing the Sahara provinces had been appreciated by the delegates as these interventions only dealt with issues interesting the international community, namely those making the difference between what is representative and what is not. Concerning the draft resolutions that are being filled, Mr Boucetta, said that the Moroccan delegation would only adhere to draft resolutions which would confirm that the Sahara issue should be dealt with in an African context and which would reiterate Morocco's commitment to accept the referendum as well as its outcome.

Parallel to the meetings of the UN Fourth Commission, Mr Boucetta met with several leaders of delegations from brotherly and friendly countries, namely Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Comoros islands, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, Zaire, Gabon, Egypt, and Gambia. Talks focused on relations between Morocco and each of these countries as well as on the meeting of the UN Fourth Commission. He also held talks with the ambassadors to the UN of France, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan on Wednesday, the Moroccan minister attended a luncheon hosted by the permanent representative of the United States to the UN, Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick in honor of several heads of Arab and African missions.

SUDAN

Numayri Receives Message From King Husayn

JN131946 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Nov (SUNA) — His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal appealed to President Numayri to work together to stop what is happening to the Palestine question and to uphold justice. The Jordanian monarch also expressed his sadness and regret toward the danger that is threatening the PLO, its legitimate leader, and its fighters, who did not bargain over their Palestinian Arab affiliation or give up their will and banners. The Jordanian monarch also recalled what Jordan had previously announced: that the free Palestinian will should not be undermined and turned into an echo of other people's policies. This came in a message to President Numayri from the Jordanian monarch. The message was conveyed here today.

Italian Reportage on Numayri's Visit to Italy

For reportage on President Ja'far Numayri's visit to Italy and his meeting with Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini and Pope John PaulII, see the Italy section of the 14 November Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Interviews Vice President Lagu

JN121232 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Nov 83 p 16

[Dispatch by Hidayat 'Abd al-Nabi from Cairo and Khartoum]

[Text] During the last Sudanese-Egyptian summit meeting, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* held a quick interview with Vice President Joseph Lagu.

The Egyptian-Sudanese summit meeting was held following President Ja'far Numayri's visit to Saudi Arabia and amid whispers about Egyptian-Arab rapprochement, the success of which is obstructed by Riyadh's stand on the Egyptian-Arab reconciliation. The credibility of these whispers became uncertain after the Egyptian-Sudanese summit meeting that was held in Khartoum and the statements Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made in Cairo on this point. In these statements, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: I do not believe that Saudi Arabia is adopting such a stand, because this is neither in its interest nor in the interest of the other Arab countries. In fact, the support of the Arab rejectionist front, which has not yet reached any solution for the Palestine cause, is considered an action against the Arab nation's history and march toward unity and overcoming difficulties.

As the Egyptian-Arab reconciliation is considered a top priority in the Arab world today, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*'s first question to the Sudanese vice president was on the possibilities of achieving Egyptian-Saudi rapprochement.

[Joseph Lagu] I am an optimist, and I believe that matters are progressing. Sudan has always been playing a role to bring the Arab leaders' viewpoints closer in order to achieve pan-Arab objectives and common interests. We hope that the president's recent visit to Saudi Arabia will lead to a rapprochement between Cairo and Riyadh, and consequently that the other Arab countries will be in a position that would enable them to achieve greater rapprochement with Egypt.

[Al-Nabi]: What is your comment on the Iranian threats to close the Strait of Hormuz?

[Lagu]: The Strait of Hormuz is a free passage. It must remain so for international navigation.

[Al-Nabi]: What is Sudan's stand on the Rapid Deployment Force in the Gulf?

[Lagu]: Sudan has always supported the principle of self-reliance. If the Gulf countries are capable of unifying their forces, they will prevent interference by the big powers' forces. We believe that the Gulf Rapid Deployment Force will achieve Gulf's security and stability.

[Al-Nabi]: What is the stand of the Egyptian-Sudanese integration on this force?

[Lagu]: Sudan and Egypt are part of the Arab community. It is known that Egypt has a military strength. If the Gulf area is exposed to any danger, Egypt cannot remain silent. If Egypt moves to help its fraternal countries, this means that Sudan will also participate.

[Al-Nabi]: What are your impressions of President Husni Mubarak in the Arab arena as he begins his 3d year of rule?

[Lagu]: I believe that Egypt has gained a great deal of respect during the last 2 years, especially in the Arab arena, thanks to President Mubarak's calm in tackling matters.

Assembly Criticizes Syria, Libya for PLO 'Plot'

JN101619 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Nov (SUNA) — The People's Assembly Foreign Policy Committee today condemned the Syrian regime's plot to liquidate the Palestinian revolution. The committee stressed in a statement it issued that what Syria is now doing serves the goals of Zionism and Israel of liquidating the PLO, consecrating the Zionist occupation of Arab territories, and silencing the Palestinian resistance movement. The statement indicates that the regrettable events to which the Palestinian people are being exposed as evident in the escalation of fighting among the Palestinian factions are only aimed at weakening these forces in front of any enemy that is doing its best to fragment them and realize its ambitions and aims. The statement asserts that what Syria and Libya are doing serves the Soviet strategy of penetrating this sensitive part of the world that is full of conflicts. It adds: What the two regimes are doing underlines their role as a cat's paw in implementing this strategy in Lebanon and Chad.

The statement says that Sudan welcomes all efforts being exerted by the mediation committee and the GCC to end the conflict among the Palestinian brothers and save the Palestinian revolution from the claws of loss and disintegration.

GAMBIA

Dakar Reports More Arrests in Coup Investigation

AB110925 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] In Gambia, investigations into the July 1981 coup attempt are not yet completely over. It is in this context that six officers of the police and the former field force, the Gambian gendarmerie, and one civilian were arrested on Wednesday in Banjul. These arrests bring to 11 the number of persons arrested within the framework of these investigations which started with the return to Banjul of three former aides of Kukoi Samba Sanya, the brain behind the abortive coup in Gambia. These three coupists deserted Kukuoi Samba Sanya after staying with him in Guinea-Bissau and in Cape Verde, and are currently helping the authorities, according to Gambian President Dawda Jawara, to find out the reason for the attempt to overthrow the regime. Besides, the Banjul court acquitted six persons accused of treason who have been under detention since the attempted coup. About 72 persons are still in detention under similar accusations.

GUINEA

DPRK Premier Visits, Welcomed by Toure

AB131125 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0915 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The DPRK premier, Yi Chong-ok, arrived in Conakry yesterday, 12 November at 1825. He was welcomed on arrival by President Ahmed Sekou Toure, supreme leader of the revolution, surrounded by members of the National Political Bureau, the national organizations of women, youth, and workers, and political authorities of the three federations of the capital in the presence of the members of the diplomatic and consular corps in Guinea.

More on Arrival

AB131130 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0915 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The National Political Bureau is happy to inform all organs of the Guinea state party, the militants of the African Democratic Revolution, of the arrival of Yi Chong-ok, premier of the DPRK, to Conakry on Saturday, 12 November 1983 at 1800. He heads an important delegation of the Korean-Labor Party which is here to participate in the 12th National Congress of the Democratic Party of Guinea [PDG]. On Monday, 14 November at 1000, our guest of honor, the DPRK premier, accompanied by a delegation of the National Political Bureau of the PDG will visit the Farana region. On Tuesday, 15 November, the Korean delegation will visit Koya at 0900, Kindia at 1100, and Kilisi where it will inspect the construction work of the Kim Il-song Agricultural Research Institute. The National Political Bureau therefore invites the federations, the sections, and the local revolutionary authorities concerned by this visit to accord a warm and military reception to the important DPRK delegation.

MALI

Cuban Party Official Arrives in Bamako

AB112200 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] A delegation from the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], headed by (Jose Tenoire), an official of the Central Committee, and also including (Osed Fernandez Vega), a member of the party committee in the Granma Province and the head of the Department of Revolutionary Orientation, arrived in Bamako this morning. It was met on arrival at the airport by Tianze Bolezogola, the Central Executive Bureau [BEC] secretary for information and culture. Head of Delegation (Jose Tenoire) explained to the Malian press the purpose of their visit.

[Begin recording in Spanish fading into French translation] The purpose of our visit here to Mali is to exchange views between the PCC and the Malian People's Democratic Union [UDPM]. It is also aimed at exchanging Mali's experiences in the political organization of the UDPM with ours as members of the PCC that is to say, exchanging ideas and experiences concerning the two parties in an atmosphere of fraternity. Our exchange of experiences will also cover the exchange of the revolutionary consciousness of our peoples, what the Communist Party can contribute to the well-being of the Malian party, and also what the Malian party can give to the Communist Party. In any case, it falls within the framework of the cooperation which exists between the two parties which is aimed at doing everything possible to bring the two sides closer together. This bond of cooperation is also responsible for the organization of an exchange of views between the two countries and the participation of the two people in the political orientations of their parties. [end recording]

During its one-week visit in Mali, the Cuban delegation will specifically hold working sessions with the Malian side and will also visit the Selingue and Kalala dam projects. According to its program, the delegation will also pay courtesy calls on some political leaders of our country.

NIGERIA

Shagari Announces New Cabinet Appointees

AB101615 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Here now are the names of the ministers and the ministries to which they are being assigned:

Agriculture: Chief Okoi Obuli;
Animal and Forest Resources: Bala Sokoto;
Communications: Chief Emmanuel Adiele;
Postal service: Alhaji Hamisu Musa;
Education: Chief Sunday Afolabi;
Student affairs: Alhaji Bily-Amina Usman;
Technical education: Dr Oko Nno;
Finance: Malam Adamu Ciroma;
Customs and Excise: Alhaji Luga;

Inland Revenue: Dr Bimbo Akintola;
Second Minister of External Affairs: Alhaji Hassan Muhammed;
Federal Capital Territory: Alhaji Haliru Dantoro;
Public Health: Paul Nwapana;
Industry and commerce: Alhaji Idrisu Popo;
National guidance: Alhaji Maitama Sule,
Social development and culture: Dr Simi Johnson;
Internal affairs: Dr Ibrahim Tahir;
Attorney General of the Federation: Chief Kehinde Sofola;
Minister in the Ministry of Justice: Doshum Gumut;
Mines and power: Alhaji Idrisu Ibrahim;
Science and Technology: Dr Bode Olowoporoku;
Transport: Dr Umaru Dikko;
Aviation: John Nwodo;
Water Resources: Dr Emmanuel Yahaya Atanu;
Water Supply: Ismaila Isa;
Works and Housing: Dr Ismael Igbani;
Housing and Environment: Muhammadu Buhari;
Steel Development: Audu Ogbeh;
Establishment and Training: Alhaji Magazi Muazu

Shagari Speaks During Swearing-in Ceremony

AB101645 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Speech by President Shehu Shagari on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed ministers on 10 November in Lagos — recorded]

[Text] Mr Vice President, Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, national chairman, national secretary, secretary to the government, head of service, honorable ministers and advisers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen: You have just witnessed the swearing-in ceremony of these distinguished ladies and gentlemen as ministers of the government of the federation, after the confirmation of their nomination by the Senate, in accordance with the provisions of Section 135-2 of our Constitution. Please accept, ladies and gentlemen, my heartiest congratulations.

It is an honor to be called upon to serve your nation in the capacities to which you have sworn your oath of office. With such honor also comes great responsibility, the responsibility to serve this nation loyally and faithfully and to ensure at all times that the interests of Nigeria always receive paramount consideration in all you do. You must demonstrate discipline, integrity, and public probity in all you do. You must show moderation and avoid ostentation in your public and private life. I need hardly remind you that you will be in the public eye most of the time and that all your actions must at all times therefore be just and worthy of ministers of the Federal Government. Only in this way will you be able to assist me to serve the best interests of the entire people of Nigeria, who have willingly given me their mandate to direct the affairs of the nation in the next 4 years. Our sacred duty is to serve them conscientiously and diligently to the best of our ability.

These represent a great challenge which I trust we will face successfully. I trust you will succeed, because I am confident of your capabilities. Your maturity and your wealth of experience derived from your previous engagements have qualified you for appointments as ministers in this new administration. I trust that you will assist me loyally and faithfully in the efficient discharge of my executive responsibilities. I am confident that you will not betray the trust which the nation and I have in you. At the conclusion of this ceremony, all ministers will be provided with a manual, called "Presidential Blueprint for the 1983-1987 Administration," which will guide in the performance of your assignment. This blueprint, which has been prepared on the basis of recommendations of the transition committee which I set up recently, spells out the present state of the economy and sets out details of reorganization of the structure of the Federal Government in order to make it more efficient. It also sets out the schedule of duties of each minister as well as a code of conduct for all of you and for some others who hold public office.

You will also observe from that blueprint that the terms of ministers of Cabinet rank and ministers of state have been abolished. Where we have more than one minister assigned to a particular ministry, the minister in charge of the ministry will be addressed as a minister of the ministry and the other minister or ministers in the same ministry will be referred to as ministers for their particular areas of responsibility within the ministry. They are designations intended merely for clarification in respect of first among equals. All of you are ministers of government of the federation and you will all attend regular Council of Ministers meetings as members of my Cabinet. I expect cooperation among all of you, particularly among those of you who will be working in the same ministry. Therefore, you must be both objective and flexible and must avoid confrontations with one another, with your permament secretaries, and other officials with whom you must work as a team. Indeed you will find out that there will be a need for you to interact with other ministries and government departments. You must therefore cooperate effectively with one another for the effective implementation of government programs.

You are indeed all aware that the present worldwide economic recession has necessitated the imposition of certain unavoidable financial constraints. This, however, does not mean that this administration will ignore the promises we made to the electorate. We will endeavor to provide our people with basic infrastructure and elements. We will avoid idealistic and grandiose schemes. You must constantly bear in mind that Nigeria and indeed the whole world is facing a difficult economic situation today, and we must therefore plan prudently and work conscientiously in our united effort to revamp the economy.

Part of our efforts to effect public savings was the reduction in the number of federal ministries from 22 to 19, federal departments from 4 to 3, and ministers from 36 to 35. This is quite a significant reduction given the enormity of the work that has to be done, as any further reduction in the number of ministers can only result in either delegation of additional responsibilities to officials or in inefficiency in the processes of political leadership of the ministries or both. The current exercise has resulted in the merger in some cases of two or more ministries under old or new names. Of particular note is the Ministry of National Guidance which will be responsible, among other functions, for the implementation of the ethical reorientation program of this administration. It is an urgent need to direct our national effort towards establishing a disciplined society where every person will endeavor to perform his duties honestly and efficiently with dedication and a sense of responsibility. You as ministers of the government of the federation must demonstrate reasonable leadership and serve the government and the people of this nation loyally and selflessly.

These are important and great challenges in our joint effort to build a peaceful and unified nation. The challenge to be self-reliant, especially in food production, the demand on us to provide housing and health facilities in order to uplift the welfare and living standards of our people, the resolve to provide free and quality education for our children and prepare our youth for the demand of tomorrow — these are challenges that go beyond our border in that our successes or failures will reflect on our endeavor to develop friendly relations with our neighbors in order to provide permanent peace in our continent. Your assignment is a responsibility which requires loyalty, dedication, hard work, and sacrifice. Once again, congratulations on your new appointment. May God in his infinite mercy guide and protect you in all your endeavors in the years ahead. Good luck. Thank you very much.

SIERRA LEONE

Troops Sent to Trouble Area in Pujehun District

AB112000 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] A senior military officer in Sierra Leone, Major General Momoh, has confirmed that troops have been sent to the troubled southern district of Pujehun on the border with Liberia. Gen Momoh is quoted as saying that two infantry companies supported by armored cars were sent to the area on Monday to contain what he called an ugly situation. He said houses have been burned down and many people killed, including policemen. He said the troops will seal the border with Liberia. According to Gen Momoh, the Liberia Government has been informed of the operation. He said earlier this year, a large number of people were reported to have fled across the border to Liberia to escape political violence in the Pujehun District following local elections.

Official Confirms Liberian Notification

AB130720 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Liberia's foreign minister, T. Ernest Eastman, has confirmed reports that the Sierra Leone Government informed the Liberian Government about the movement of its troops in the Pujehun town. Speaking in a telephone interview with LBS [Liberian Broadcasting System] news today, Minister Eastman said because of the cordial relationship between Liberia and Sierra Leone, President Siaka Stevens informed Commander in Chief Doe about the situation in Pujehun about 2 weeks ago. Minister Eastman said the Liberian leader interposed no objection since the town in question was in Sierra Leone, about 15 miles from the Liberian border. The Liberian foreign minister said there was no cause for alarm since there was no unfriendly act displayed by the Sierra Leone Government.

Reports from Pujehun yesterday spoke of considerable unrest and that the Sierra Leone Government had moved men and equipment including armored cars in the trouble spot. The authorities described the unrest as an ugly situation which started as a political issue but has now degenerated into banditry.

The Sierra Leone authorities state that houses are being burned down and many people including policemen have been killed. So far there is no independent report from the scene of the conflict.

UPPER VOLTA

Reportage on Visit of Niger's Seyni Kountche

Arrives in Ouagadougou

AB111530 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Major General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of Niger, arrived in Ouagadougou this morning for a working, friendly visit to Upper Volta. Maj Gen Kountche was welcomed on arrival by his Upper Voltan counterpart, Captain Thomas Sankara. The people of Ouagadougou and members of the Revolutionary Defense Committees cheered the two heads of state along the streets from the airport to the presidential palace. Before leaving the airport, Gen Kountche told the national press of the aim of his visit.

[Begin Kountche recording] Niger and Upper Volta, or rather the people of Upper Volta and Niger, are linked by geography and history. Soon after the 4 August events, the Upper Voltan leader, in spite of his numerous preoccupations, visited Tera in Niger on 22 September. This visit was aimed at strengthening and consolidating the multiple relations that exist between the two people. The people of Niger and myself appreciated very much this gesture, more so because of the fact of being neighbors calls for a number of concerted activities in both Niger and Upper Volta.

Courtesy demands a return visit. We say that this is not a simple visit for reasons of courtesy or protocol. We believe in the principle that all peoples should be free to choose their leaders and should have the freedom and the right to define their political, economic, and social orientations. What Niger and its people want is the happiness and prosperity, — let us say the stability — Upper Volta.

The significance or purpose of my visit to Ouagadougou is to reaffirm not only our attachment to these profound principles, but also to further consolidate these ties of fraternity, friendship, and cooperation in a serene atmosphere necessary for our actions. [end recording]

President Kountche is accompanied by his ministers of foreign affairs, public works, urbanism, and interior. In the afternoon, the Niger president will visit the sales exhibition,organized as part of the activities marking the national week for the handicapped, in the company of his Upper Voltan counterpart. After the signing of the final communique, Gen Kountche will leave our country in the evening.

Press Release Issued

AB112145 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 11 Nov 83

["Press release" issued in Ouagadougou on 11 November at the end of Niger President Seyni Kountche's visit to Upper Volta — read by Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and Upper Voltan head of state, General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [CMS] and Niger head of state, made a working, friendly visit to Ouagadougou, Republic of Upper Volta, on 11 November 1983. President Seyni Kountche and his delegation were accorded a warm, brotherly reception by President Sankara, members of the CNR and the government, and by the Upper Voltan people, especially the people of Ouagadougou.

Presidents Kountche and Sankara held talks in an atmosphere of brotherhood, friendship, and mutual understanding. Present at the talks on the Niger side were: Daouda Diallo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Amadou Fiti Maiga, minister delegate for interior; Moumouni Yacouba, minister of public works and town planning; Sari Bako, permanent under secretary of the chairman of the CMS and head of state; Abdouramane Ahmad, director of political and cultural affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Mahmoudou Hamma, director of national security; and Madiki Guiyol, director of the protocol.

On the Upper Voltan side were: (?Arba Diallo), minister of foreign affairs; Philippe Ouedraogo, minister of equipment and communications; Ernest Ouedraogo, secretary of state for the interior; Traore Noumouni, permanent under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Isac Ouedraogo, permanent under secretary of the presidency of the republic; Paul Desire Kabore, director of bilateral cooperation, and acting permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Juste Simfore, director of the state protocol; Dominique Cisse, acting director of political affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Henri-Bruno Betsan, adviser on economic matters in the Ministry of planning and Cooperation; Paul Vitele, technical adviser of the inspector delegate to the chairman of the CNR in charge of administrative (?affairs); Lucien Goudiga, director of external trade in the Ministry of Trade, Industrial Development, and Mining; Compaore Abdoulate, legal adviser in the presidency of the republic; Kone Fofana, director of political affairs in the Ministry of Interior; and Toure Bouraima, technical adviser in the Ministry of Information.

During their talks, Presidents Kountche and Sankara thoroughly examined the questions of bilateral cooperation between their two countries. They also examined the overall situation in Africa and other world issues of mutual interest. The two heads of state expressed satisfaction over the excellent brotherly relations which have always existed between their two peoples on the basis of good neighborliness and cooperation.

Faithful to the Niger-Upper Volta Tera Declaration signed on 22 September 1983 during the working, friendly visit paid to the Republic of Niger by President Thomas Sankara, the two heads of state reiterated their common determination to work in the interest of their peoples toward the consolidation and the strengthening of the fruitful ties of friendship, cooperation, and good neighborliness existing between Upper Volta and Niger. In this connection, they decided that the grand Niger-Upper Volta joint commission on cooperation would meet in December 1983.

Presidents Kountche and Sankara also expressed satisfaction over the broad convergent views existing between their governments on all the issues examined and touching on the situation in Africa and in the world. The two heads of state reaffirmed their indefectible attachment to the principles of nonalignment, which should enable the Third World countries to strengthen their national independences and to contribute positively to the maintenance of world peace and security and to the establishment of a new world economic order.

At the end of his stay in the Republic of Upper Volta, His Excellency Gen Kountche expressed his heartfelt thanks to his friend and brother, His Excellency Capt Sankara, the CNR and the government and people of Upper Volta for the African hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay. Issued in Ouagadougou on 11 November 1983.

Press Conference Held

AB121020 Paris AFP in French 0823 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, 12 Nov (AFP) — President Seyni Kountche of Niger stated on Friday evening at the end of a few hours visit to the Upper Voltan capital that relations between Upper Volta and Niger are excellent. The visit by Captain Thomas Sankara, Upper Voltan head of state, at the beginning of September to Tera (western part of Niger), first enabled the two presidents to review bilateral issues, mainly communications and the fight against drought. On the first issue, the talks dealt with the means of consolidating under all conditions the transportation networks to enable the transportation to Niger of food commodities from Abidjan and Lome through Upper Volta. On the drought which has struck the northern part of Upper Volta and the western part of Niger (the two countries share 200 km of a common border), Presidents Kountche and Sankara discussed measures to be adopted to help destitute populations within the bilateral framework as well as within the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel.

On international and mainly African issues (the Namibian, Chadian, and Western Sahara problems), the two heads of state observed that they had largely the same views, and they reiterated their attachment to the principle of nonalignment with the objective of establishing a new world economic order.

It is the fourth time in 3 months that the two presidents have met. After Tera, they met at the Vittel summit at the beginning of October (the two heads of state returned to their countries on the same plane) and they also met in Niamey at the end of October during the summit of the West African Economic Community [CEAO], the Non-Agression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD], and the West African Monetary Union [UMOA]. Also, according to observers, although Niger, which is traditionally considered a moderate country, had shown some concern over the advent of Capt Sankara's National Revolutionary Council on 4 August, relations between the two countries soon regained their normal friendly character. However, there is still the problem of Upper Volta's attitude toward the CEAO, UMOA, and the ANAD. On his return from Niamey, President Sankara, who did not get the presidency of any of the three organizations, stated that he was disappointed by summits because their decisions had been reached in advance.

Although the final communique did not refer to this, President Kountche, however, stated to the press that the issue of subregional cooperation had been discussed. "We also reviewed within the framework of economic institutions measures to be taken to ensure true solidarity," he said.

Ghana Armed Forces To Defend Upper Volta

AB101735 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] General Quainoo, the Ghanaian Army chief of staff, visited Guillaume Ouedraogo Camp this morning accompanied by Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, the commander in chief of the National Armed Forces High Command. Greeted by a brass band, the two chiefs of staff inspected the troops, composed essentially of the soldiers who took part in the "Bold Union" maneuvers. Maj Lingani introduced his Ghanaian counterpart, who made a speech in which he outlined the political context of the maneuvers and their benefits and denounced the enemies of the peoples of Upper Volta and and Ghana, who are frightened by the strengthening of the brotherly ties between the two nations. Here is an excerpt of the speech:

[Begin recording in English fading into French translation] Because of our close association, many people are frightened, both in Ghana, in Upper Volta, and in countries overseas. The program we have set up to lead our people to greatness is frightening many people. But we should not be afraid of the enemies from outside our countries. In Ghana, we are prepared to trample down any enemy from abroad. And I am sure this is the same in Upper Volta. But the most important thing is to cope with our internal enemies. We must overcome our own weaknesses. We must work hard. We must be more loyal: that is the only way for us to lead our peoples to victory. Beginning today, we Ghanaians will show particular interest in everything that happens in Upper Volta. I am convinced that if anyone dares attack Ghana, you will come to help us. Similarly, if anyone dares set foot on Upper Voltan soil, the Ghanaian Armed Forces, which I will lead myself, will not await any instruction before starting to march into Upper Volta.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the commander in chief of the Upper Voltan Armed Forces, and the Upper Voltan head of state for providing me with this opportunity to speak to you this morning. [end recording]

Frontline Leaders Hold Summit in Lusaka 12 Nov

MB130812 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] A six-nation southern African frontline group has called on the international community to put the problems of the region in proper perspective. Chairman of the frontline group, Dr Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, said at the Lusaka meeting held yesterday that there was a kind of conspiracy of silence concerning the withdrawal of foreign forces in the conflict zones of southern Africa.

Dr Nyerere told a press conference at the end of the nearly 7 hours talks at State House that while racist South Africa and her backers talked about the removal of Cuban troops from Angola, no one was talking about the removal of South African troops from southern Angola. He said the frontline states rejected totally any linkage of Namibia's independence to unrelated matters, because there was no logic to these, and this stand was supported by the international community at large.

Communique Issued

MB130925 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, returned to Luanda at about 2300 yesterday from Lusaka, where he attended yet another summit of the heads of state and government of the frontline states. The meeting, which ended early last night, was attended by the heads of state and government of Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, and the minister of foreign affairs of Botswana. The SWAPO president and an ANC representative attended the meeting as guests. At the end of the working sessions, the following communique was issued:

The heads of state and government of the frontline states and the minister of foreign affairs of Botswana met in Lusaka on 12 November 1983. The president of SWAPO and a representative of the ANC of South Africa were invited to participate in the meeting.

In reviewing the prevailing situation in southern Africa, specifically the deplorable situation in South Africa, the impasse on the talks for the independence of Namibia, and the escalation of South African aggression against Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, and other states in the region, the heads of state and government were informed about the visits recently made by two heads of state abroad. They took into consideration the recent efforts made by the UN secretary general to negotiate a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem. In this regard they deplored the continuing South African stubborness in frustrating UN efforts to see that Namibia attains freedom and independence.

The frontline states reiterated their total rejection and condemnation of all attempts made by South Africa and the United States in linking the withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola with the independence of Namibia. In this context they reiterated their total support for the Angolan stand on this matter. They demanded that South Africa respect UN Resolution 435, which constitutes the only valid basis to achieve a peaceful solution of the Namibian question. The frontline states noted with indignation that South Africa continues the illegal occupation of the southern part of Angola in total disregard for Angolan sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this regard, they deplored the silence over this criminal aggression against Angola by racist South Africa. The frontline states reiterated their serious concern over the continuous acts of destabilization of the frontline states and other countries in the region by South Africa. They condemned the provocative acts of aggression and attacks by South Africa, particularly the recent raids and violation of the territorial integrity of Mozambique and the continuous occupation of Angolan territory.

With regard to the situation in South Africa itself, the frontline states noted with great concern that South Africa continues to intensify its policy of inhuman oppression and denies its people their inalienable rights in their own country. They vigorously rejected the shameless facade of constitutional changes in South Africa. They noted that these acts are those of a desperate regime which can no longer deceive anyone. The frontline states decided that the struggle for the elimination of the apartheid system must continue. In this regard they appealed to all nations of the world that love peace and freedom to increase material, diplomatic, political, and moral support to the recognized liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia.

The frontline heads of state expressed their hope that the next meeting of heads of state and government of the Commonwealth, which is to take place in New Delhi, India, will seriously deal with matters concerning peace and security in southern Africa.

The frontline heads of state and government took the opportunity of their meeting to congratulate their Brother Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, president of the Republic of Zambia, for his convincing victory in the recent Zambian presidential elections.

[Issued in] Lusaka, 12 November 1983

Leaders Depart 13 Nov

MB130811 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The four frontline heads of state who arrived in Lusaka yesterday to attend a days summit left last night for their respective countries. President Kaunda, party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba, senior party and government officials, and hundreds of party militants were at the Lusaka International Airport to give them a rousing sendoff.

First to leave was Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who is chairman of the frontline states, followed by Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos, Mozambican President Samora Machel, and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. The Botswana foreign minister, who also attended the meeting, is expected to leave today.

ANGOLA

UNITA Claim of Shooting Down Aircraft Rejected

MB111400 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 11 Nov 83

[10 November ANGOP commentary: "The Tragedy and Criminal Opportunism"]

[Text] For all those who let themselves be deceived by the true nature of the UNITA puppet gang — the armed wing of the South African racists — the tragic event of the crash of a Boeing 737 of the Angolan Airlines [TAAG] served to show UNITA's lack of scruples and its tendency to lie and distort all the facts of what has been taking place in the People's Republic of Angola. Even at the time of the accidental crash of a military plane during takeoff, the puppets issued a communique in which they claimed that the plane had been shot down by one of their commando units which had infiltrated the vicinity of the capital of Huila Province. It was expected then, that the puppets would take advantage of the wave of speculation abroad regarding the type of passengers on the regular TAAG flight from Lubango to Luanda. Thus, according to an AFP report datelined Windhoek, capital of occupied Namibia, UNITA has already claimed responsibility for the crash of the TAAG plane, while attempting to justify its alleged action by arguing that only military personnel were traveling on the plane.

It is difficult to understand these shocking, repugnant, and irresponsible actions, whether it is just and opportunistic exploitation of a real tragedy — which was only due to technical faults — for mere propaganda purposes or shamelessness in assuming responsibility, even fictitious, for such a monstrous and free crime. Accordingly, [words indistinct] doubts still prevail in some circles about the nature of such a horrible organization of gangsters.

UNITA Groups Pursued in Benguela, Cuanza Sul

MB101010 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 9 Nov 83

[Text] The bandits of the notorious UNITA gang, which is only able to exist with military and logistical support from South Africa, are continuing to suffer successive defeats that cause them unprecedented despair. New criminal actions, which prove the low morale that has affected that puppet gang in the pay of Pretoria, took place recently in the areas of Benguela and Cuanza Sul Provinces with discouraging results for the enemy.

An armed UNITA group in the Canjala area of Benguela Province 8 days ago ambushed a column of civilian vehicles transporting essential goods from Lobito to Cuanza Sul Province, killing (?12) travellers. The bandits did not go through the vehicles, for as they were preparing to loot and plunder the goods from the attacked vehicles a People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] force which was in the area promptly acted, repulsing the puppets. The chairman of the Military Council of the 7th Military Region, Comrade Kundi Payama, who was returning from a working visit to Cuanza Sul Province, inspected the area shortly after the attack and personally led the hot pursuit operation to annihilate these puppets. As a result of the operation, the enemy suffered many casualties which have not yet been fully counted as the hot pursuit operation will continue until the entire gang is annihilated.

Meanwhile, five UNITA puppet gang counterrevolutionaries were shot dead a few days ago by FAPLA and People's Defence Organization joint forces in (Assango), Cuanza Sul Province as they were attempting to establish themselves there. Earlier the gang destroyed a tractor and a shop belonging to the Carimba production unit in Assango, after which they were subjected to a merciless hot pursuit until they were eliminated.

In Cunene, in the meantime, the South African occupation forces and their proteges of the notorious UNITA gang have committed all sorts of atrocities against the defenseless public, according to the provincial commissioner, (Pedro Motins), in an interview published yesterday by *JORNAL DE ANGOLA*.

The Cunene provincial commissioner pointed out that in the areas under occupation daily life is characterized by the murders of civilians and the rape of women and children, which is truly offensive to human dignity and physical well-being. He pointed out, however, that despite all this the people in the occupied areas are continuing to organize themselves, striking blows against UNITA puppets and proving their loyalty to the principles defended by the MPLA-Labor Party.

Harare Embassy Condemns U.S., RSA Policies

MB110850 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola has called on the progressive forces in the world to strongly condemn the United States and the Pretoria regime for their military policy in the southern African region. In a message published by the Angolan Embassy in Harare to mark the country's eighth independence anniversary, Angola says South African troops are still occupying part of its territory. It says these imperialist maneuvers by the United States and its South African ally are aimed at installing the puppet bandit leader, Jonas Savimbi, into power.

Angola says the people, under the leadership of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, will defeat the enemy and their puppets. It says the Americans and South Africans are delaying the independence process in Namibia and blaming Angola for the delay by linking the withdrawal of Cuban troops with Namibian independence.

The People's Republic of Angola pledges its unflinching support for the South-West Africa People's Organization, which is fighting the racists in Namibia, and the African National Congress of South Africa, which is fighting the Boers in South Africa itself. Angola also pledges to cooperate with other independent countries in southern Africa through regional trade agreements such as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

BOTSWANA

Talks With Zimbabwe on Border Incident Held

MB111505 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Following recent incidents along the Botswana- Zimbabwe border, an emergency meeting of the Botswana-Zimbabwe Defense and Security Commission was held in Bulawayo yesterday. The Botswana delegation was led by the minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, and the minister of external affairs, Mr Archibald Mogwe. The Zimbabwe delegation was led by the minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Mr Munanagagwa, and included the minister of state in the prime minister's office responsbile for defense, Mr Sekeremayi; the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Mangwende; and senior government officials.

A release from the Office of the President says discussions at the meeting were frank but cordial, and all the issues discussed were resolved amicably. The release says the Zimbabwe ministers reassured their Botswana counterparts that members of the Zimbabwe National Army and Air Force were under strict instructions never to cross into Botswana in any of their operations. The delegates also agreed that communication at all levels between the two governments should be improved with a view to ensuring that [words indistinct].

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Sends Message to Angola on Plane Crash

MB102021 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Communique from the presidency of the republic]

[Text] Your Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola: It was with great sorrow that we learned of the tragic incident which took place in Lubango city where 125 Angolan citizens were killed in the crash of a plane of the Angolan airlines, TAAG.

On behalf of the Mozambique people, the Frelimo Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique, I send our heartfelt condolences to the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party, and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola for this incident. I ask you to pass to the bereaved families our deepest sorrow and grief as well as our solidarity during this period of pain and mourning.

Highest and fraternal regards. The struggle continues.

[Signed] Samora Moises Machel, field marshal of the republic, president of the Frelimo Party and of the People's Republic of Mozambique

Greets Dos Santos on Anniversary

MB112011 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] President Samora Machel has sent a message of congratulations to Jose Eduardo dos Santos, his Angolan counterpart, on the eighth anniversary of the proclamation of Angolan independence. During yet another anniversary, it is with great emotion that we greet the Angolan people who, despite aggression by the racist South African regime, continue with determination to lay down the foundations for the creation of a new society in Angola, President Samora Machel said in the message.

The supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution also pointed out in his message that the commitment, firmness, and determination of the Angolan people, as well as the clarity of the political line of the MPLA-Labor Party are a sure guarantee for the victory over the enemies of the Angolan revolution and the building of socialism in the People's Republic of Angola.

CPSU Delegation Arrives for Talks With Frelimo

MB111941 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Vasiliy Nikolayevich Golubev, member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, arrived in the country yesterday at the head of a party delegation which will hold talks with the Frelimo Party. Vasiliy Golubev is also chief editor of *SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA* newspaper, and his delegation includes a chief of the department of propaganda of the CPSU Central Committee, the adviser to the international department, and a lecturer of the socialist science institute. Speaking to the media soon after his arrival, the head of the delegation said that he is visiting Mozambique at the invitation of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and that his visit is designed to strengthen relations between the two parties apart from exchanging labor experiences.

Kirgiz Minister Departs

MB112000 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Askar Tursunov, minister of higher and secondary specialized education of the Kirgiz Soviet Socialist Republic, said in Maputo today that the decisions of the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress would be implemented through efforts being undertaken by the Mozambique people to resolve their problems. Askar Tursunov, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the Kirgiz Communist Party, said this at a press conference during the week of friendship between Mozambique and the USSR. During his stay in Maputo, Askar Tursunov visited a number of places in the economic and social sectors, notably the cashew nut factory, the Matola industrial school, and Eduardo Mondlane University. Askar Tursunov left Maputo for home today.

Lisbon: Armed Forces Free 3 Soviet Hostages

LD121407 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1300 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces have freed another three Soviet nationals held hostage by the rebels, the Portuguese news agency NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL reported today quoting diplomatic sources in Maputo. The release of these three hostages brings the number freed so far by the Mozambique Army to 5 out of a total of 22 Soviet aid workers abducted in September by the Mozambique National Resistance in Zambezia Province.

SOUTH AFRICA

Defense Minister Warns Against Terrorism

MB111611 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, says the excellent preparation for incidents such as the follow-up operation against a group of terrorists in northern Transvaal this week will mean certain death for other terrorists who wish to copy their example. He was commenting on an incident in which four insurgents were killed in operations in a remote area about 60 km from the border with Zimbabwe. Gen Malan said that the defense force had taken note of the fact that the terrorists were heavily armed and even carried a land mine with them. He said he didn't think that they had smuggled the land mine into South Africa from a neighboring country and warned those supporting terrorism that they were playing with fire. The incident occured after the insurgents opened fire on a truck in which an 85-year-old woman and here farm manager were travelling. They were not hurt. The defense force and the police launched a follow-up operation, which led to the terrorists being tracked down. A soldier was also killed in the ambush.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Sends Condolences to Angola on Crash

MB102010 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] President Kaunda has expressed shock at the plane crash in Angola of a Boeing 737 in which about 150 people died. In a message of condolence to his counterpart, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Dr Kaunda said Zambians would like to join their brothers and sisters in mourning for those who had so untimely lost their lives through this unfortunate plane crash. The Angolan news agency said in its report that the Boeing crashing on takeoff at Lubango Airport, south Angola, killing all aboard, who included five crew, three children, and two Army officers.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Comments on Dissidents, ZANU-ZAPU Talks

MB110852 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The minister of construction, Comrade Callistus Ndlovu, says dissidents have tarnished the image of ZAPU. In an interview on Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation's Radio 4 last night, Comrade Ndlovu said ZAPU is encouraging its supporters not to harbor or support the dissidents, because their activities hamper development. He said the problem is worsened by the fact that those operating in Matabeleland are not ZAPU bandits only, but there are some South African-sponsored agents sent to destabilize independent African states. On unity talks between the ruling party, ZANU-PF, and ZAPU, Comrade Ndlovu said the recent break should not be viewed as the end. He said the two parties should try again because unity talks are vital for the future of Zimbabwe.